Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the $250 million price tag set by lawmakers in the sale of CUC's power plants?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

12 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Abuse of Power

Sarah Palin unlawfully abused her power as governor by trying to have her former brother-in-law fired as a state trooper.

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Peace Nobel

Finland's ex-president Martti Ahtisaari won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to build a lasting peace.

WORLD...Page 18

Jolie as Mom

Angelina Jolie, an advocate of adoption, credits partner Brad Pitt with her decision to have biological children.

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Chinese magical show today at MHS Gym. **PAGE 2**

Matson, Horizon Lines reduce fuel surcharge. **PAGE 5**

Miura found dead in L.A.

By LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Japanese businessman accused of conspiring to have his wife murdered has been found dead in an apparent suicide, less than 24 hours after he set foot in the continental United States to answer to the charges.

Attorney Mark Geragos, who has been representing 61-year-old Kazuyoshi Miura, said prosecutors in the case called him early Saturday and told him Miura had hanged himself.

"I'm shocked," Geragos, who was in Italy, told The Associ-

See MIURA on Page 4

AP

Escorted by Los Angeles police, Kazuyoshi Miura, right, arrives at Los Angeles International Airport after being extradited from Saipan early Friday, Oct. 10, 2008. Hours later he was found dead of an apparent suicide in his cell.

REPAC DONATION

Hawaii State Rep. Glenn Wakai, back, second from right, and Reach out Pacific have donated eight wheelchairs to the CNMI Hawaii Liaison Office for the use of CNMI patients visiting Hawaii. "They had one rickety wheelchair for all their patients. It was quite a problem when they had to transport multiple people who needed help with mobility," said Wakai. He said the donation was prompted by Vicky Guerrero's son Angel, shown here seated in one of the donated wheelchairs, who has been in Hawaii for a year getting cancer treatment. "He was in need of a wheelchair since the lone wheelchair at the CNMI office was too small. I figured if we got him one, we could get a few more for all those visiting Hawaii from the CNMI," said Wakai.

"This is a period like none of us has ever seen before."
—Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson

US to buy stake in banks; first since Depression

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government will buy an ownership stake in a broad array of American banks for the first time since the Great Depression, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said late Friday, announcing the historic step after stock markets jolted still lower around the world despite all efforts to slow the selling stampede.

Separately, the U.S. and the

See INDUSTRIAL on Page 4

AP

Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., speaks during a news conference, Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, in Washington.

Stocks got slammed, but was it a 'crash'?

By ELLEN SIMON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Did stocks "crash"?

Some news organizations and investors are hesitating to use the word to describe Wall Street's terrifying sell-off.

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NMC board adopts $3.1M budget for FY '08-'09

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College approved a total operations budget of $3.1 million for fiscal year 2008-2009 during a meeting on Thursday , Oct. 9.

Board chair Charles Cepeda immediately signed Resolution No. 2008-02 on the same day to approve the budget request, attested by NMC president and BOR executive secretary

See NEW on Page 4

Around the CNMI

Chinese magical show today at MHS Gym

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The renowned Sichuan Opera will be featured in a show this afternoon titled "Chinese "Mask, Music and Magic" at the Marianas High School Gym.

The event will showcase the traditional Sichuan Opera, a magical show and Gu Zheng Chinese musical instruments.

For a reasonable cover charge of $15 for adults and $12 for kids, audience will have a grasp of Chinese talents in comedy shows as well as acrobatics.

Organizers said that children 3 years old and below will be admitted free to the show.

Tickets are available at the Pacific Trading Company Ltd.

For more information, you may contact Mike at 322-6624 or Betty at 322-6617.

Organizers said they will let the audience take photos of the performances but cameras with flash will not be allowed. They said drinks and foods would be prohibited inside the gym but would be allowed outside.

As a renowned local opera mainly performing in southwestern China's Sichuan, Yunnan, and Guizhou provinces, Sichuan Opera is characterized by unique solos, refined acting, rich percussion, and talented comedians. Sichuan Opera features vivid, humorous narration, singing, and acrobatics. It also boasts a system of stylized movements and its acting is both exquisite and lively.

The opera's performances are always full of wit, humor, lively dialogues, and pronounced local flavors.

To portray special characters, the opera incorporates a series of stunts, including the famous "face-changing," where the performer can change his or her facial makeup in the snap of a finger right on stage.

Most Sichuan Opera repertoires are adapted from classical Chinese novels, mythologies, legends, and folk tales. Statistics show that the total number of Sichuan Opera plays exceeds 2,000.

Pepsi/Pacific Trading Company is the major sponsor of the show at MHS. Organizers also acknowledged the support given by PTI, Saipan Grand Hotel and Saipan Shipping Company.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SHRM to host Diversity Conference

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management announced that the CNMI Chapter Diversity Conference is on Thursday, Oct. 16, from 8:30am to 1pm at the Giovanni's Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Guest speakers will include James Rayphand, executive director for NMPASI, and Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

Cost for members is $20 and non-SHRM members is $25.

All members are encouraged to come and bring a friend. Lunch and conference materials are included in the cost. ***(SHRM)***

MHS calendar of events

Oct. 13 No classes (Commonwealth Cultural Day)
Oct. 14 MHS Community Council Meeting (PTA), 5:30pm at MHS cafeteria.

The MHS Class of 2008 yearbook is in. You can pick up your copy from the MHS main office, Monday-Friday, 3:30pm-5-pm. For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

SSHS PTA meeting set

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Men's Walk and Candlelight Vigil set

The Family Violence Task Force and its community partners are inviting all men and their family members to join the "Halloween Men's Walk" and "Candlelight Vigil."

The event will be held Oct. 31, Friday, 5:30pm, starting at the Garapan Fishing Base. Participants are urged to be at the site by 5pm. There will be free t-shirts to the first 100 marchers.

For more information, contact the Ayuda Network (322-7469); or Lugat Pas (662-4583). ***(PR)***

OES PTA meeting

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008, 6:15pm, in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

PEDRO AGULTO TENORIO
for DELEGATE
Congratulations to the people of Tanapag Village, we share in the joy of the entire community as you celebrate the feast of your patron saint Santa Remedio.
Biba Santa Remedio!
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Pedro A. Tenorio-Delegate
P.O. Box 10006, PMB 850, Saipan, MP 96950 • www.peteaforcongress.com • petea4delegate@yahoo.com

Tudela achieves 3-peat in Toyota skills contest

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the third straight year, Vincent A. Tudela crowned himself the champion in the Annual Microl Technician Skills Contest that was held yesterday noon at the Toyota Showroom of Microl Corp.

Tudela, who also won the initial contest in 2006 and defended the title last year, bested two other finalists, Ronald Barredo (first runner-up) and Alex Victoria (second runner-up) in an hour of measuring technical skills and know-how about car engines.

Tudela, who has worked for Microl for 8.5 years, said it was harder this time around compared to last year.

"It was more challenging. I was a little bit pressured but I am glad for winning this competition again," he said after the award presentation led by Doug Brennan, general manager/vice president of Microl Corp.

The objective of the contest was to fix the engine right for the first time by applying proper fault diagnosis, inspection, and work procedures.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Three-time winner Vincent A. Tudela, center, is flanked at the podium by runners-up Ronald Barredo, left, and Alex Victoria, right, during the awards presentation for the annual Microl Technicians Skills Contest at the Toyota showroom yesterday noon. They are joined by Microl management led by GM Doug Brennan and contest judges.

The contestants were required to complete three practical assignments with corresponding points awarded for proper procedures, accuracy of diagnosis, degree of assignment completion and care of customer's car.

The contestants were given practical assignments; first, they diagnosed and rectified the engine-starting problem; second, they diagnosed and rectified a defective power window system; and third, they performed drivetrain service and inspection.

The judges included Jesse Munoz, Emir Abuan and Allen Moses.

Tudela said it was challenging because of the new tool they used called the Tech-Xtreme, a tool that links up to a laptop that gives them access to the Internet.

"Our company really gives us the motivation to improve our skills. This is not just a contest for individual skill but we work as a team. We combine our efforts together," said Tudela, who will be joining the Assembly of Champions in Japan early next year. He already competed in the 2004 Hong Kong Skills Competition.

There were eight contestants that initially participated, Tudela, Barredo and Victoria advanced to the Top 3 finals.

"I am proud of these three guys. They are really expert from simple oil change to overhauling," Brennan said.

Brennan said this annual contest showcases the top technicians of the Toyota service department.

The contest, he said, promotes professionalism among the company's service technicians and is a measure of their technical skill and know-how.

"In addition, it builds trust and respect in Saipan's small but very competitive automotive industry, which in turn allows us to satisfy our customers' needs with the service they expect and deserve," he said.

PSS promotes 'Student First' program in all schools

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita Sablan said she is promoting a program called "Student First" in all schools in the CNMI, making it the theme for the whole school year.

In line with this, Sablan said the Public School System will have many student programs that promote "Student First."

"We would like also the private schools to follow along that line," she said.

The commissioner's plans were outlined in the October issue of the PSS monthly newsletter, which came out Friday. It was the second edition since PSS came out with its maiden issue in September with a theme "Welcome Back School Year 2008-2009.

Sablan said PSS implements various programs for students at all levels that promotes student academic achievement, student behavior and student attitude.

"These three-pronged student performances are critical if students are expected to succeed in school and in life as they leave the CNMI Public School System," she wrote.

The programs that promote "Student First" include competition activities, student leadership activities, after-school programs, wellness and health activities, academic programs, and curricular events.

Sablan noted that student academic achievement addresses the performance of students in the classroom.

"This is evident with the implementation of the PSS standards and benchmarks for core academic programs and ancillary programs," she said.

Sablan reiterated BOE's policy that PSS implements character development programs that "enable students to become self-sufficient, understanding, respected, responsible and contributing citizens of society with satisfying lifestyles in the CNMI and the world."

She said school principals, vice principals, and counselors, along with faculty and parents, are taking the lead to promote character development that include programs such as Character Count, Peace Builders, and Mega Skills at all school levels.

Some of the activities PSS had initiated in the past school year were food and nutrition school program, the Attorney General's Cup, Covenant Day Debate, Scripps Spelling Bee, Sengebau Poetry Competition, Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands, the CNMI JROTC Program, Math Court, Primary Grades Forensic Conference, National Junior Forensic League, National Forensic League and the After School and Saturday School Programs.

MEETING NOTICE

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room, of the San Jose Professional Building, Saipan, MP 96950.

AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      • July 8, 2008
      • July 23, 2008
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance
   b. Policy
   c. Personnel
      i. Desk Audit Report
   d. Ad Hoc Reports
4) **Old Business**
   a. Financial Audit Report
   b. Email poll results for ratification
      i. Vladivostok Advertisement
      ii. Korea and Japan Marketing Activities
      iii. Russia, Korea China, Japan Activities and Reorder MVA Paper Bags
5) **New Business**
   a. Magnificent Micronesia website
   b. Tour Guide Certification Program
   c. General Membership meeting
   d. Contracts for renewal
   e. FY 2009 Budget
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Adjournment**

/s/ Jerry Tan
Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

Miura returns to Calif. to face trial

From Page 1

ated Press in a telephone call. "One of my lawyers was with him for 12 hours yesterday and he seemed in good spirits. He was looking forward to fighting this."

On Saipan, assistant attorney general Jeffery Warfield Sr. said Miura's death is truly a tragedy.

"We're surprised to hear it and it's never good to get that kind of news," said Warfield who handled the extradition case against Miura.

The prosecutor said he learned about Miura's death when reporters started calling him and that he later was able to confirm it through the Japanese businessman's attorneys in Saipan and in California.

"What I understand is LAPD is going to have a press conference in about five hours. And they are going to be releasing statements and some information at 9 o'clock Pacific time," Warfield said.

District attorney spokeswoman Sandi Gibbons confirmed that Miura was found dead in his cell after her office was notified by police. A phone message left with a police spokeswoman was not immediately returned.

"The Los Angeles Police Department notified us last night Mr. Miura had been found dead in his cell," Gibbons said. "I don't know the circumstances of his death and I don't know if next of kin have been notified yet."

Miura arrived in Los Angeles on Friday after a trip from the U.S. commonwealth of Saipan, where he had been held since his February arrest on a 1988 Los Angeles County warrant alleging murder and conspiracy.

He was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday on a charge of conspiracy to commit murder.

Miura was accused of plotting to have his wife killed during a visit the couple made to Los Angeles in 1981. Miura was hit in the leg, and his wife, Kazumi Miura, 28, was shot in the head. She died of her wounds a year later in Japan.

Los Angeles County prosecutors contended Miura wanted his wife dead so he could collect about $750,000 on her life insurance policies.

They argued that he signaled someone to shoot the couple, although no one else has been charged.

After the 1988 arrest warrant was issued, prosecutors in Los Angeles decided to work with Japanese authorities instead of trying to have him extradited. He was convicted of murder in Japan in 1994, but the verdict ultimately was overturned and Japan's highest court issued an acquittal.

Earlier this week, prosecutors filed court papers seeking reinstatement of the murder charge. The 25-page motion argued that the law did not recognize convictions or acquittals outside of the United States.

However, Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen ruled that trying Miura for murder in California would violate a law against double jeopardy.

Miura had fought extradition but agreed to return to Los Angeles after the murder charge was dismissed—although conviction on the conspiracy charge could have resulted in 25 years to life in state prison.

Geragos said he has contacted the Japanese consulate and asked them to notify Miura's wife.

"She was on her way to Los Angeles and was to meet with me on Wednesday," he said. ***(With reports from Ferdie De La Torre)***

Industrial powers vow 'decisive action'

From Page 1

globe's other industrial powers pledged to take "decisive action and use all available tools" to prevent a worldwide economic catastrophe.

"This is a period like none of us has ever seen before," declared Paulson at a rare Friday night news conference. He said the government program to purchase stock in private U.S. financial firms will be open to a broad array of institutions, including banks, in an effort to help them raise desperately needed money.

The administration received the authority to take such direct action in the $700 billion economic rescue bill that Congress passed and President Bush signed last week.

Earlier Friday, stock prices hurtled downward in the United States, Europe and Asia, even as President Bush tried to reassure Americans and the world that the U.S. and other governments were aggressively addressing what has become a near panic.

A sign of how bad things have gotten: A drop of 128 points in the Dow Jones industrials was greeted with sighs of relief after the index had plummeted much further on previous days. The week ended as the Dow's worst ever, with the index down an incredible 40.3 percent since its record close almost exactly one year earlier, on Oct. 9. 2007.

Investors suffered a paper loss of $2.4 trillion for the week, as measured by the Dow Jones Wilshire 5000 index, and for the past year the losses have totaled $8.4 trillion.

It was even worse overseas on Friday. Britain's FTSE index ended below the 4,000 level for the first time in five years; Germany's DAX fell 7 percent and France's CAC-40 finished down 7.7 percent. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index fell 9.6 percent, also hitting a five-year low. For the week, the Nikkei lost nearly a quarter of its value. Russia's market never even opened.

Paulson announced the administration's new effort to prop up banks at the conclusion of discussions among finance officials of the Group of Seven major industrialized countries. That group endorsed the outlines of a sweeping program to combat the worst global credit crisis in decades.

Earlier this week, Britain had moved to pour cash into its troubled banks in exchange for stakes in them—a partial nationalization.

Paulson said the U.S. program would be designed to complement banks' own efforts to raise fresh capital from private sources. The government's stock purchases will be of nonvoting shares so it will not have power to run the companies.

The purchase of stakes in companies would be in addition to the main thrust of the $700 billion rescue effort, which is to buy bad mortgages and other distressed assets from financial institutions. The aim is to unthaw frozen credit, get banks to resume more normal lending operations and stave off severe problems for businesses and everyday Americans alike.

It would mark the first time the government has taken equity ownership in banks in this manner since a similar program was employed during the Depression.

In 1989, the government created the Resolution Trust Corp. to deal with the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis. It disposed of the assets of failed savings and loans.

Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke met with their counterparts from the world's six other richest countries late in the day as the rout of financial markets sped ahead despite earlier dramatic rescue efforts in the U.S. and abroad.

In a statement at the end of that meeting, the G7 officials vowed to protect major banks and to prevent their failure. They also committed to working to get credit flowing more freely again, to support the efforts of banks to raise money from both public and private sources, to bolster deposit insurance and to revive the battered mortgage financing market.

They did not provide specifics beyond that five-point framework.

At the White House earlier in the day, Bush said, "We're in this together and we'll come through this together." He added, "Anxiety can feed anxiety, and that can make it hard to see all that's being done to solve the problem."

He made it clear the United States must work with other countries to battle the worst financial crisis that has jolted the world economy in more than a half-century.

Was it a crash or not: That's the question

From Page 1

A crash is commonly defined as a 20 percent decline in a single day or several days. The drop over the seven days ending Thursday lopped 20.9 percent off the Dow Jones industrial average, which would qualify as a crash. On Friday, the Dow fell again, bringing the cumulative loss to 22 percent.

"This quick, this amount, in these few days, obviously is a crash," said Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at Standard & Poor's. "The crash deals with the speed as well as the intensity of it."

CNBC host Dylan Ratigan was among those uttering the word on Thursday, calling the decline "a cascading crash." The Wall Street Journal, the most influential publication in the financial world, hedged somewhat on Friday's front page, saying the scary drop over the past several days "amounts to a slow-motion crash."

But not everyone was prepared to go that far.

The Associated Press did not use the word "crash," referring to Thursday as a "runaway train of a sell-off."

"A car crash is sudden, and this is over eight days," said AP Business Editor Hal Ritter. "You can argue either way, but it's better to give readers the important numbers for this week, 1987 and 1929, so they have the perspective to make their own judgments."

While The New York Times' news columns called Thursday's trading a "rout" in which "panicky investors dumped stocks en masse" in a "stomach-churning 90 minutes" at the end of trading, the paper carefully avoided the word "crash," saying the 20.8 percent decline over six trading days "is similar to the drop in the Dow on Black Monday, Oct. 19, 1987." (And that, of course, is a day most people refer to as a crash.)

Times business editor Lawrence Ingrassia was not available for an interview, said newspaper spokeswoman Catherine Mathis. But she said, "What I can tell you is that we compared the percentage decline with the 1987 crash, which gives readers the perspective they need on the extent and speed of the decline."

One reason news organizations and investors hesitate to use the word: They are afraid of causing panic.

"Nobody wants to be blamed for making things worse than they are," said Edward Yardeni, who runs his own economic research firm. "You can probably watch CNBC all day and find that almost no one used the word `crash' or `depression.' You'll see it more often. It is a stock market crash and it has the potential to create a depression."

The word "crash" is so linked to the market's 1929 plunge and the images of bread lines, shantytowns and hungry children in the ensuing Great Depression that some investors hesitate to use it even to describe 1929.

Seth Glickenhaus, a 94-year-old money manager who worked on Wall Street in 1929, used the euphemism "break" to describe the 1929 crash in a recent interview with the Journal.

At CNBC, the closely watched anchor Maria Bartiromo asked a guest Thursday, "I'm reluctant to use the word, but do you think this is a crash?"

Her guest, Bob Doll, chief investment officer of BlackRock Inc., the largest publicly traded U.S. money manager, replied: "Yeah, I guess we have to call it that, Maria. That's a lot of percents in a short period of time. We're down a bunch, and it's been relentless."

Jonathan Wald, senior vice president for business news at CNBC, said in an interview Friday, "Anytime you do the math, when the Dow is down that much over a period of days, it's a crash. It's a word we don't like to use very often because nobody likes to see it, but when it happens, you can't avoid it."

On the morning after Black Monday in 1987, the Journal shocked many readers when it boldly used the word. Its lead article began: "The stock market crashed today."

New NMC budget set at $3.1 million

From Page 1

Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Fernandez said this is the first time in college history that they would be working with a budget that clearly links budget allocations to the five-year PROA Strategic Plan, institutional priorities, and results from lengthy but rewarding program review activities.

Last month, the board unanimously approved a plan that will be included in the college's Oct. 15 report, illustrating the changes they have made in order to get off show-cause status.

The PROA Strategic Plan 2008-2012 lays out four goals for the college: promote student learning and success; respond to professional development, continuing education, and personal enrichment needs of the Commonwealth; optimize financial and human resources; and accelerate the upgrade of physical and technological infrastructure. Each goal lists several initiatives to follow.

She said the board's approval of the budget directly addresses the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges' Team Recommendation 1, which—among other things—requires the college to integrate its planning processes, evaluation activities, and resource allocations.

"The budgetary process involved countless hours of extensive deliberations between students, staff, faculty, and board members who should all be commended for their commitment and dedication to formulating a balanced budget," said Fernandez.

She said she is proud of all their hard work and dedication.

The resolution states that the board is committed to its mission statement to provide the best quality and meaningful postsecondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole.

The board said NMC should be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, postsecondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of CNMI.

The board said it recognizes that the newly approved budget must be consistent with mandates of local and federal laws, in addition to meeting the standards of accreditation set forth by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The board said this budget is a product of extensive deliberations by the NMC community, including its faculty members, students, staff and the Fiscal Committee of the Board of Regents.

"The board further acknowledges and appreciates that the main elements of the budget that differ from last year's submission is the clear and direct links to the PROA Strategic Plan 2008-2012, Institutional Priorities, in addition to many of the recommendations for action that emerged from Program Review," the resolution states.

Matson, Horizon Lines reduce fuel surcharge

The two leading ocean shippers for Guam and the CNMI are lowering their fuel surcharges as softening demand continues to push down bunker fuel prices.

Matson Navigation Co. and Horizon Lines Inc. both announced Friday that they would slash by 4.5 percentage points—or 12 percent—their fuel surcharge to 33 percent from 37.5 percent for Hawaii service routes on Sunday.

Matson is also decreasing the fee by 4.5 percentage points—or 11.5 percent—to 34.5 percent from 39 percent the same day for its Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia service.

It is the second time in less than a month that rivals Matson and Horizon have reduced the fee, after nine consecutive increases since lowering the rate in January 2007. The companies cut the levy on Sept. 21 by 4.75 percentage points—or 11.2 percent—the largest percentage-point reduction since the surcharge was implemented nearly a decade ago.

Matson says for most of its customers, the latest decrease will represent a savings from $110 to $170 per container.

"Following an extended period in which oil costs hit historical record highs, it is encouraging to see this downward trend continue to be reflected in the prices the company is now paying for bunker fuel," said Dave Hoppes, Matson's senior vice president for ocean services.

Matson says it usually gives 30 days notice of rate adjustments, but decided to implement it sooner so customers can quickly realize the benefits during the difficult economic environment. ***(Associated Press)***

DELEGATE FORUM AGNES E. DONATO

Businessman Chong Won, one of the candidates for congressional delegate, answers a question during a forum Wednesday evening. The other candidates who participated in the forum are, from left, Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig, former high school teacher John Davis, Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio (hidden), former Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan, former senator David Cing, former Judge Juan T. Lizama, and talk show host John DLR. Gonzales. Sen. Luis Crisostimo did not participate. The candidates faced off on issues including the economy, immigration, environment, education, and power service.

New Japanese generation indifferent to Miura

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TOKYO—Rika Maeda said she doesn't care about Kazuyoshi Miura anymore, because the Japanese people have long since cut ties with him.

"Most people think he's guilty," Rika, 32, said. "We are separate from him."

Miura was flown out of Saipan Friday night, after spending more than seven months at the CNMI Department of Corrections. He is headed to California where he will stand trial for the murder of his wife 27 years ago.

In 1994, Japanese courts found Miura guilty in the murder of his wife but that decision was overturned 10 years ago by the Japanese high court. CNMI authorities arrested Miura at the Saipan airport last Feb. 22 after learning he was a suspect in the 1981 murder of his wife in Los Angeles.

Maeda said she remembers when Miura, 61, made news for his wife's murder. The subsequent trial was tabloid fodder, she said.

"Twenty or thirty years ago, it was really big, but not anymore," she said. "Most Japanese know his name. We remember him."

But some Japanese have different feelings, apparently. Several media organizations from Japan and other Asian countries have gone to Saipan to document every step in the Miura saga.

Rika said she and other Japanese citizens have long since written off Miura.

"He speaks like an actor," she said, adding that she hopes that justice will finally be served in the case.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
Statewide Independent Living Council
FY '09 1st General Membership Meeting
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at Giovanni's, Hyatt Regency Saipan at 9:00am-1:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Welcoming

II. Preliminary Items
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes of 09/29/08

III. New Business
- Election of New Officers
- Response to RSA Monitoring Review

IV Announcements

V Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends that ladies over 20 years old should start getting Clinical Breast Exams (CBE).

Early detection is your best protection!

CNMI Breast & Cervical Screening Program (BCSP)
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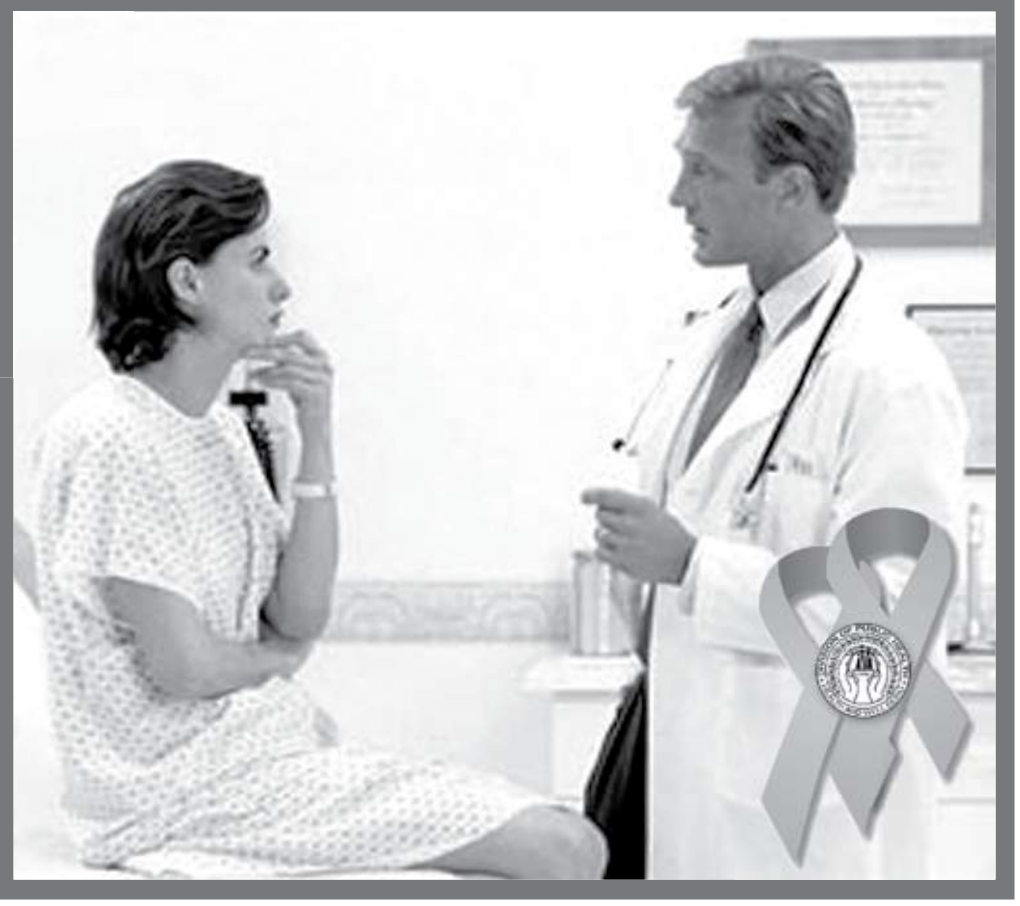
cnmibcsp@pticom.com

October is the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The financial decelerator

A student of the Great Depression, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has a strong sense of what caused that calamitous crash, and of what central banks and other government institutions did, or failed to do, to keep it from getting worse. Central to Bernanke's analysis is the concept of a "financial accelerator." Roughly, this is the idea that a breakdown in the financial system, uncorrected by government, exacerbated what might have otherwise been a relatively mild drop in "real" production.

Applying this lesson, Bernanke's Fed, in concert with the Treasury and other government agencies, has been pouring liquidity into the system for the past year, with relatively less regard for the long-term balance sheet of the U.S. government. Fed lending to financial institutions now totals $800 billion, Bernanke said Tuesday. That's not counting past interest rate cuts, the Fed's new plan to buy short-term commercial paper, or the Treasury's $200 billion seizure of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—or the $700 billion rescue plan for distressed financial assets.

This raises a difficult question: At what point, precisely, will it become safe for the Fed to turn off the liquidity tap? But that question must wait for another day. Unless the Fed can engineer a gentle splashdown for the economy, the system could crash so hard that repaying today's emergency borrowing would be the least of our worries. Of course, that assumes that even the wisest policies can prove effective. The International Monetary Fund's gloomy forecast for the first half of next year—zero or slightly negative growth in the developed world—is actually relatively optimistic, in that it does assume policy success.

Certainly, we can't accuse Bernanke of insufficient effort. On Wednesday, he threw yet more liquidity at the problem, in the form of a half-percentage-point cut in the Fed's key interest rate. The novelty this time—and it was a welcome one—is that he acted in concert with the central banks of other countries, notably the European Central Bank, which had previously made inflation-fighting its top priority. But with Europe's banking system tottering, the ECB changed course, raising hopes for much-needed continued international policy coordination.

The first opportunity to extend and deepen that coordination comes at an international meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in Washington, beginning Friday. The mood will be grim, befitting a crisis that Bernanke has labeled "historic." We hope that, despite understandable feelings in some European countries, the meeting will not turn vindictive with respect to the United States. Yes, the current crisis can be traced to America, thanks to a combination of unwise monetary and regulatory policies that facilitated the subprime mortgage bubble. The root cause, though, lies in the global glut of savings—the piles of foreign exchange earnings that exporters such as China and the oil-producing states of the Persian Gulf accumulated and then recycled through the financial systems of the developed world. There were no effective international mechanisms for recognizing and managing the risks created by what was, in hindsight, too much easy money. It's good that governments seem to be getting together to deal with today's crisis. Soon, they will have to start devising ways of preventing the next one.

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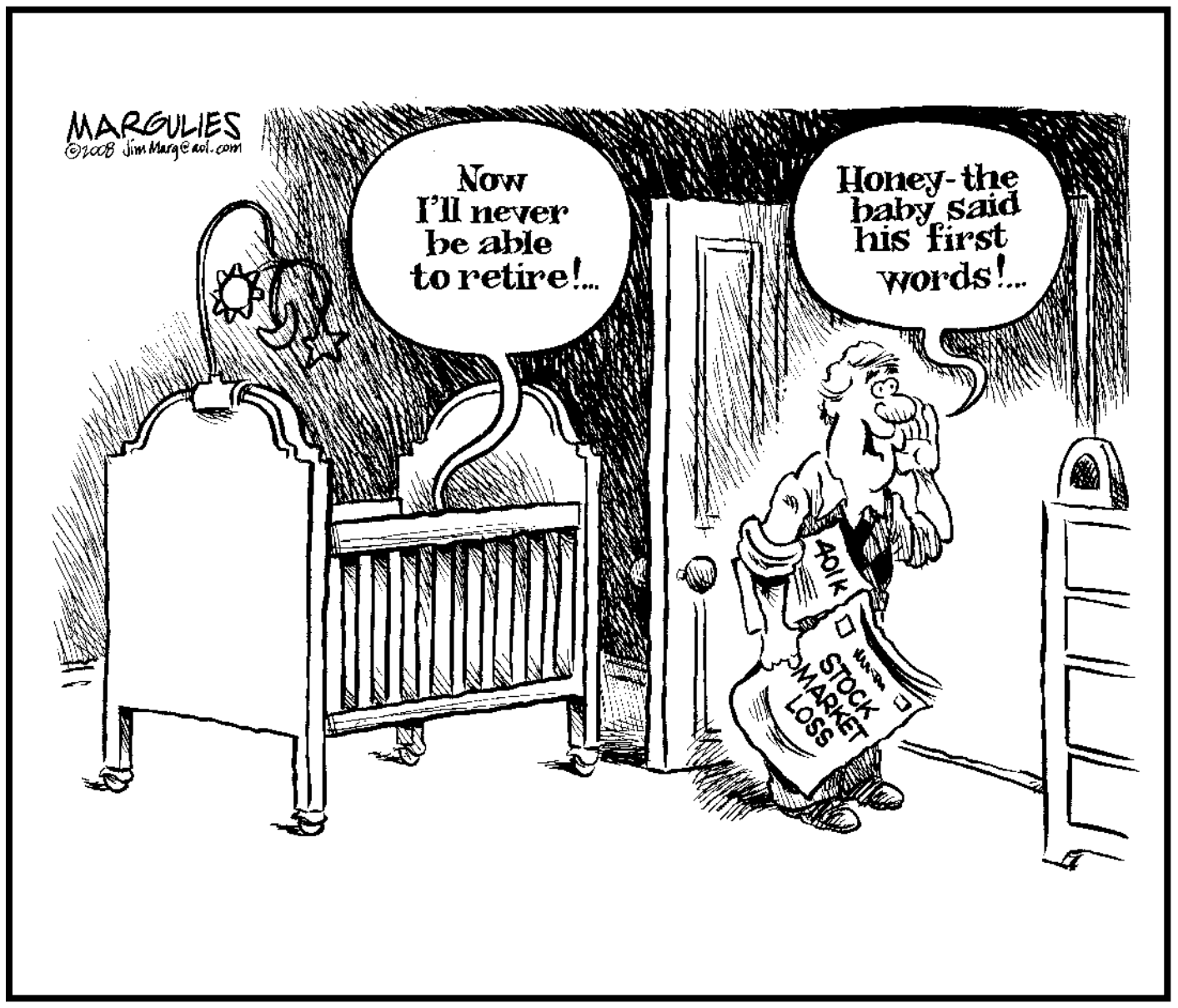


Love is a legacy that will never die

By ABIGAIL TRAFFORD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

"Granny—what happens to you when you die?"

The question comes from Brooks, my grandson. We are all sitting at the kitchen table: Granny and Brooks, age 7, and his cousins Sophia, 6, and Lila, 4. Their mothers (my two daughters) are upstairs, sleeping in, and Granny is in charge.

What happens when you die? Too early for this! I get the coffeemaker going, find the Cheerios, pour the milk.

"Yeah, Granny, what happens?" Sophia asks.

I dissemble. "Well, I'm pretty young," I begin. "I'm probably not going to die for a while." Finally the coffee is ready, and I pour myself a cup. Maybe we can now talk about something else.

Silence. Three pairs of brown eyes stare at me. The children wait for an answer.

"Well, I won't be here anymore," I mumble and take another sip of coffee. The children look confused. Not here? Not in the house? Brooks points to the kitchen cabinets. "But what happens to all your stuff?" he asks. That's easier to answer: "Your parents will take care of the stuff," I say brightly. The children, only slightly reassured, keep staring at me. I have to focus on the question.

Perhaps this is one of the gifts of grandchildren: to keep us focused on the issues that really matter. News events dominate daily conversation: the home mortgage meltdown, a bombing in Pakistan, the race for the presidency. But what about the Big One? Death. Hard enough to explain subprime loans to young children, let alone al-Qaida or even the electoral college. How to explain the roll of generations, the natural cycle of birth, life and death? The notion of peace everlasting? Sophia, Lila and Brooks are so young. Life lies ahead of them.

"When I die, my body will be gone," I begin. "But one part of me never dies. My love for you never dies. When I die, all my love jumps inside of you," and I turn to Brooks and tickle his chest. He smiles. Then I tickle Sophia and Lila. All my love jumping inside you. More giggles.

"You know, let's say you have a big test one day and you're nervous. Just before the test, you can take a deep breath and say to yourself: `My granny loves me!' "

"That's great, Granny," Brooks says.

"I have an idea," Sophia says. "What if we put a picture of you on the wall and then when we get up we can say: `Good morning, Granny!' "

"That would be wonderful," I say. "We'll always be in touch."

"Good morning, Granny," they all shout, and burst out laughing.

Lila waves her hand at me. She hasn't touched her Cheerios: "Hi, Granny!" I blow her a kiss. "Can I have a waffle?" she asks.

I smile. It's all about love. The most precious gift I can give these youngsters is a legacy of love. And they give me the opportunity to plant the seeds of caring in the next generation. In death, the love endures. In life, the acts of caring, big and small, create a state of "relatedness," of being involved in the lives of people you care about.

All the research shows that "relatedness" is key to health and well-being as people grow older. Everyone needs an intimate circle of family members and friends. According to psychologist Laura L. Carstensen, director of the Stanford Center on Longevity, older men and women may have smaller social networks, but they often have stronger core circles of people who are essential to their lives.

In our family, a state of "relatedness" is reinforced by the annual ritual of coming together in the summer on an island in Maine.

One late afternoon, I am hurrying to set up for a party for my younger daughter's 10th wedding anniversary. The clan gathers: my intimate circle and the larger circle of extended family and friends. The guests arrive: toddlers and teen-agers, parents and grandparents; the formerly married, the never married, the currently married and the newly married.

One by one, they stand up to give a toast, sing a song, tell a story.

I look out at the mass of youngsters screaming across the field; they weren't here 10 years ago. A whole new generation has been born. I find my cousin, my playmate from when we were their age so long ago. You must remember this. We hug. A soft breeze comes in from the southwest. The ferry goes by. The children take turns on the swing. More hugs, more laughter.

But there is also a note of sorrow: Another cousin, who is in his 80s, is in hospice care now. Bittersweet are these milestone celebrations.

What happens, Granny, when you die?

An eagle flies in and sits on a nearby tree. Everyone stops and looks: Majestic, proud, defiant, the eagle turns its profile to the crowd. Silence ... awe. Look! Look! Catch a glimpse before it goes. And then the eagle spreads its wings and flies away.

I survey the gathering and see interlocking circles of couples and individuals, bound together by shared experience and the ties of love, loss and friendship. These circles sustain and embrace us. On the front lines of longevity, we have a mission: to keep loving and caring for others, to steward future generations, to craft a legacy by weaving our past into the present.

And then we fly away.

The children are ready for cake and ice cream.

"Hi, Granny!" Good morning, Granny.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Main Street's rescue

By SEBASTIAN MALLABY
Special to The Washington Post

The most stunning graphic of the past few days shows the stock market's reaction to government attempts to rescue the financial system. Between Monday and Wednesday, the Federal Reserve unveiled five initiatives to unfreeze credit, and stocks slumped after each announcement. Meanwhile, in Europe, the story is the same: The series of deposit guarantees, bank rescues, partial bank nationalizations and interest rate cuts has yet to calm investors. To the contrary, market panic and apparent government panic have fed on each other. In Washington, the Treasury went from ad hoc bailouts to demanding $700 billion without saying how it would be spent. In Europe, rival governments tripped over themselves as they rolled out uncoordinated measures.

There is a silver lining, and a cautionary message, to this terrible week. The silver lining is that market panic has now overshot so much that there's at least a chance that it will subside. We have gone from grappling with genuine financial challenges—that mortgage loans are tumbling in value; that shrinking the excess borrowing in the financial system is bound to force asset prices down—to grappling with the exaggerated terror that nobody is to be trusted. Banks won't lend to each other or to healthy companies even for short periods. Companies that have pre-negotiated rights to borrow are calling in the money, not because they need the cash but because everyone else is hoarding it.

Central banks, which face fewer political constraints than finance ministries, have rapidly come up with a plan to calm everybody's nerves, though the patient has not yet responded. The Fed's version of the policy comes down to this: If Bank A won't lend to Bank B, let's have Bank A lend to us and then we'll lend to Bank B; and if Banks A and B won't lend to companies C, D and E, then we'll get between them also. In this way, the full faith and credit of the U.S. government can be made to substitute for the lack of faith in private players.

'This is the most sudden expansion in the state's role in the economy at least since the Depression. But the plan is sound. It does not involve printing money or igniting inflation. It shouldn't cost taxpayers much, if anything.'

The Fed's plan is already driving extraordinary growth in its borrowing and lending. This is the most sudden expansion in the state's role in the economy at least since the Depression. But the plan is sound. It does not involve printing money or igniting inflation. It shouldn't cost taxpayers much, if anything. Once investors see that the Fed's approach works in practice as well as in theory, there will be at least some reason for the markets to settle down.

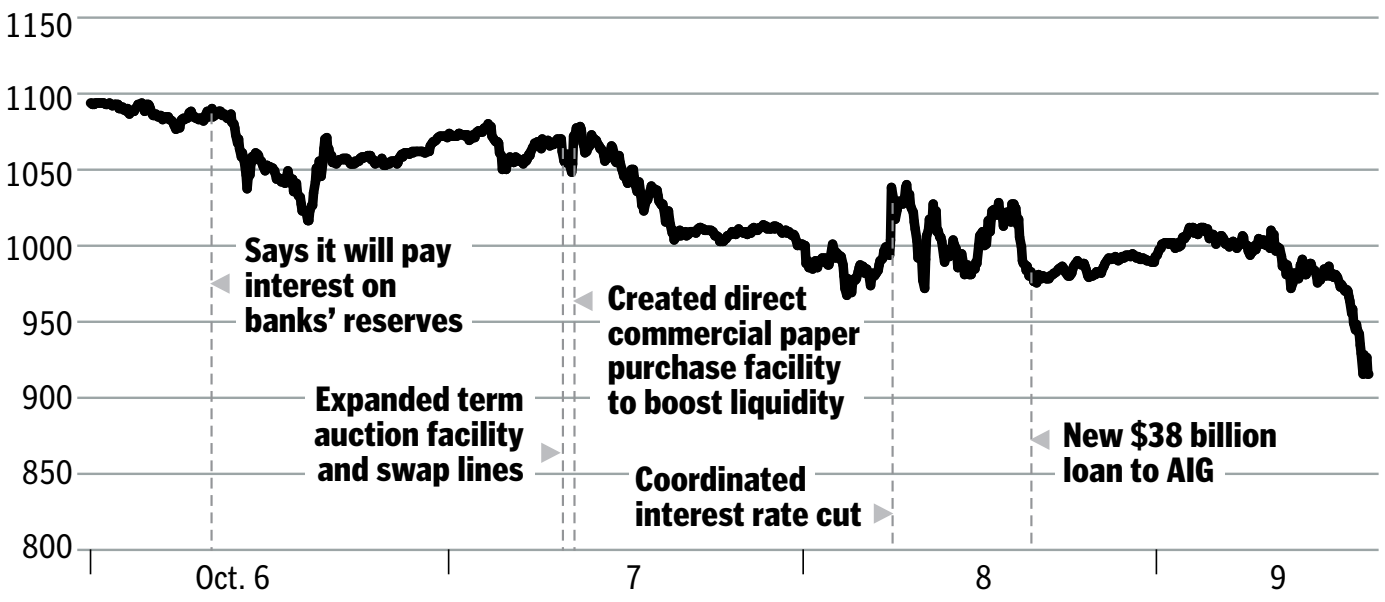
Here is the cautionary message: If financial professionals are confused by government actions, the voting public is doubly bewildered. As far as most people can see, government is spraying money at the Wall Street fat cats who created the chaos. Federal policy needs to pay more attention to ordinary families, and with the economy tanking and unemployment set to soar, this change had better happen quickly. Otherwise, voters will respond to government in the same way that markets have reacted over the past week—with contemptuous cynicism.

How should government demonstrate concern for regular people? John McCain's plan to refinance mortgages shows that he has the right impulse, but this is not the best approach. Rearranging home loans one by one would be a slow process when what's needed is quick action. It would be almost impossible to rearrange the loans fairly: Prudent home buyers who have kept up with their payments might lose out to imprudent ones who stretched too far; folks who rented while saving for a home would get nothing. Besides, McCain's plan could exacerbate the financial crisis in a perverse way. Help for families who are behind in their mortgage payments could encourage others to stop paying, too, in which case loans that are now good would quickly turn rotten.

The fastest and fairest way to help ordinary people is via a budget stimulus package. Part of the extra spending should be distributed to state governments, which are having trouble maintaining Medicaid and other programs as recession eats into their tax revenue. Part of the extra spending could go to infrastructure projects, though this tends to be a slow way of getting cash into the economy. But much of the stimulus should be in checks made out directly to citizens. Wall Street is getting its bailout. Main Street deserves one also.

This is not just about politics and fairness. The next stage of this crisis, if financial markets do calm down, will be trouble in the real economy. A new Wall Street Journal poll of economists predicts that U.S. gross domestic product is three months into a contraction that will last until spring—which implies that the economy is headed for the longest period of shrinkage in more than half a century. There is only so much the Fed can do to fight this recession, especially since banks are too bruised to transmit the tonic of low interest rates rapidly through the economy. For reasons both political and economic, therefore, it is time for a budget stimulus.

The S&P 500 futures price and five Fed announcements this week.



SOURCE: Paul Swartz — Council on Foreign Relations

THE WASHINGTON POST

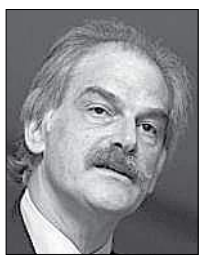
THE WASHINGTON POST

This week's series of deposit guarantees, bank rescues, partial bank nationalizations and interest rate cuts has yet to calm investors. To the contrary, market panic and apparent government panic have fed on each other.

Navigating the storm

By JOHN LIPSKY
Special to The Washington Post

The writer is first deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund.



WASHINGTON—After several years of exceptional progress, the global economy is entering a major slowdown. The risks of a more worrisome outcome are palpable. The International Monetary Fund's World Economic Outlook released this week notes that many advanced economies are close to or are moving into recession; growth in emerging economies also is weakening.

With the crisis spreading, it would be easy to give in to deep pessimism. Nonetheless, there are good reasons for hope that a protracted downturn can be avoided and that the IMF's expectation that the global economy can begin a gradual recovery by the second half of next year is realistic.

The IMF has long experience in dealing with banking and financial system breakdowns in advanced and emerging economies. We have distilled practical lessons regarding how to halt systemic decay and lay the foundations for recovery. But past IMF experiences also suggest that even a successful path won't be quick or easy. The tectonic plates of the global financial system are shifting. There is no reasonable prospect of restoring the current system, so it is imperative that innovative solutions be found.

Dramatic policy moves this week in the United States and in key European countries made clear that government officials and central bankers recognize the extreme danger signs in the financial markets and the unfolding economic data. Already, officials have come to understand that earlier piecemeal initiatives undermined confidence and that decisive action is necessary. Some initiatives that previously would have been rejected out of hand as too extreme, such as a coordinated round of interest rate cuts, have been implemented. Surely more will follow.

The first priority must be to halt and then reverse the current turmoil. To overcome this crisis—which is familiar in outline, if unprecedented in scale, scope and complexity—a set of decisive, coherent and consistent policy initiatives, implemented vigorously, will be required. This principle is classic. What is novel is that global and regional responses are necessary for success in the current circumstances, not just national responses—however bold.

At this decisive phase, policies must be aimed at addressing the key systemic problems—illiquid assets, capital shortages and the collapse of counter-party trust. The continued provision of massive liquidity is one necessary element of a solution. So is an internationally consistent approach to deposit insurance.

The possibility of extending at least temporary public guarantees to interbank or other loans has not yet been addressed clearly, though such moves have proved useful in several previous instances. Moreover, the effective implementation of plans for public-sector swaps for or outright purchase of troubled assets—such as in the Bank of England's Special Liquidity Scheme or, prospectively, in the U.S. Troubled Asset Relief Program—could play an important role in restoring confidence in the financial markets.

It is critical for bank capital to be rebuilt quickly. In many past crises, a public provision of capital has been crucial in catalyzing private funds and in helping to restart credit creation. Of course, the use of public funds in this way requires adequate safeguards and a viable exit strategy. That this crisis has specific roots in the United States and other housing markets suggests that direct public support for this sector should be considered, an aspect of policy that will inevitably be decided by each country individually.

Looking beyond the immediate crisis, a new multilateral framework for macro-financial stability will be needed. It should cover regulatory frameworks as well as economic policies. A variety of efforts are well underway in this area. The priority now must be to break the negative feedback loop between dysfunctional financial markets and a weakening global economy. The IMF stands ready to play its unique role of policy adviser and source of crisis aid to its member countries, whether they are advanced, emerging or developing economies.

The annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank, beginning Saturday, will bring together the world's key economic and monetary officials. The schedule includes sustained opportunities to confront both immediate and structural policy challenges. It would be unrealistic to expect dramatic decisions to follow immediately. But the next few days will be critical in setting a multilateral path toward global success in resisting the downward spiral of financial strains and weakening growth. Over the coming weeks, a new coherence in global policy efforts should address the profound shifts occurring in financial markets.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲83	▼74

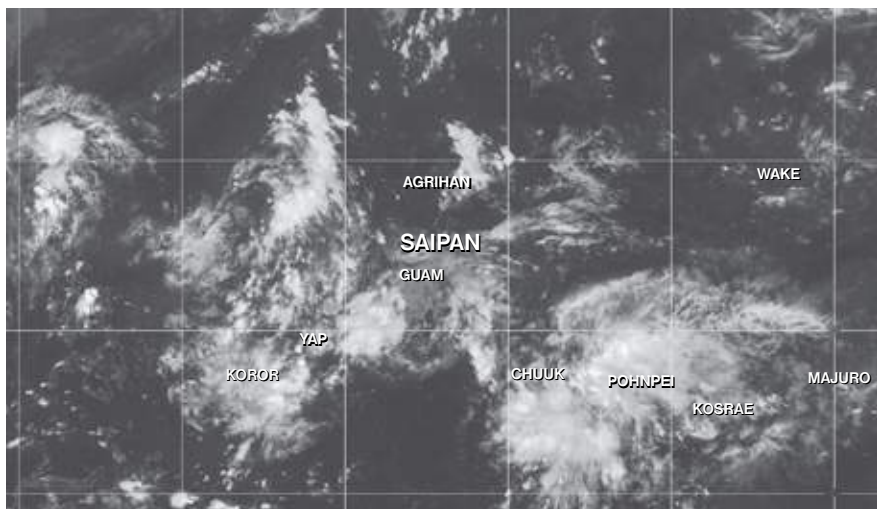
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲63	▼49
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼71
London	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼52
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74	▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼65
Miami	Showers	▲86	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼57
Osaka	Cloudy	▲70	▼51
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼54
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Rome	Sunny	▲75	▼54
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲62	▼38
San Francisco	Sunny	▲70	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲66	▼43
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼61
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼59

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:12AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:40AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:02PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:46PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northwestward from 5N138E to 10N135E then northward to end at 21N135E. Trade winds converging in the vicinity of the trough are coupling with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror and west of Yap within 250 miles of the trough axis. Another surface trough reaches northeastward from Yap to 21N134E. Convergent trade winds near and southeast of the trough are teaming with upper-level divergence to producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Yap between 10N and 17N from 138E to 142E and just southeast of the Marianas within 75 miles of a line from 14N147E to 8N150E. A third surface trough angles northeastward from 4N151E to a weak circulation centered southwest of Pohnpei near 6N156E then eastward to end at 6N164E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are occurring just east of Chuuk and over Pohnpei between the equator and 10N from 151E to 160E and also between 5N and 10N from 160E to 165E. Kosrae lies on the southern edge of this area. Scattered trade-wind showers and isolated thunderstorms are found east of Majuro between 5N and 10N from 175E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:08AM	5:58 PM
Tuesday	6:08AM	5:57 PM
Wednesday	6:09AM	5:57 PM
Thursday	6:09AM	5:56 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:00PM	3:25AM
Monday	4:39PM	4:18AM
Tuesday	5:20PM	5:12AM
Wednesday	6:04PM	6:10AM
Thursday	6:54PM	7:10AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am– 12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

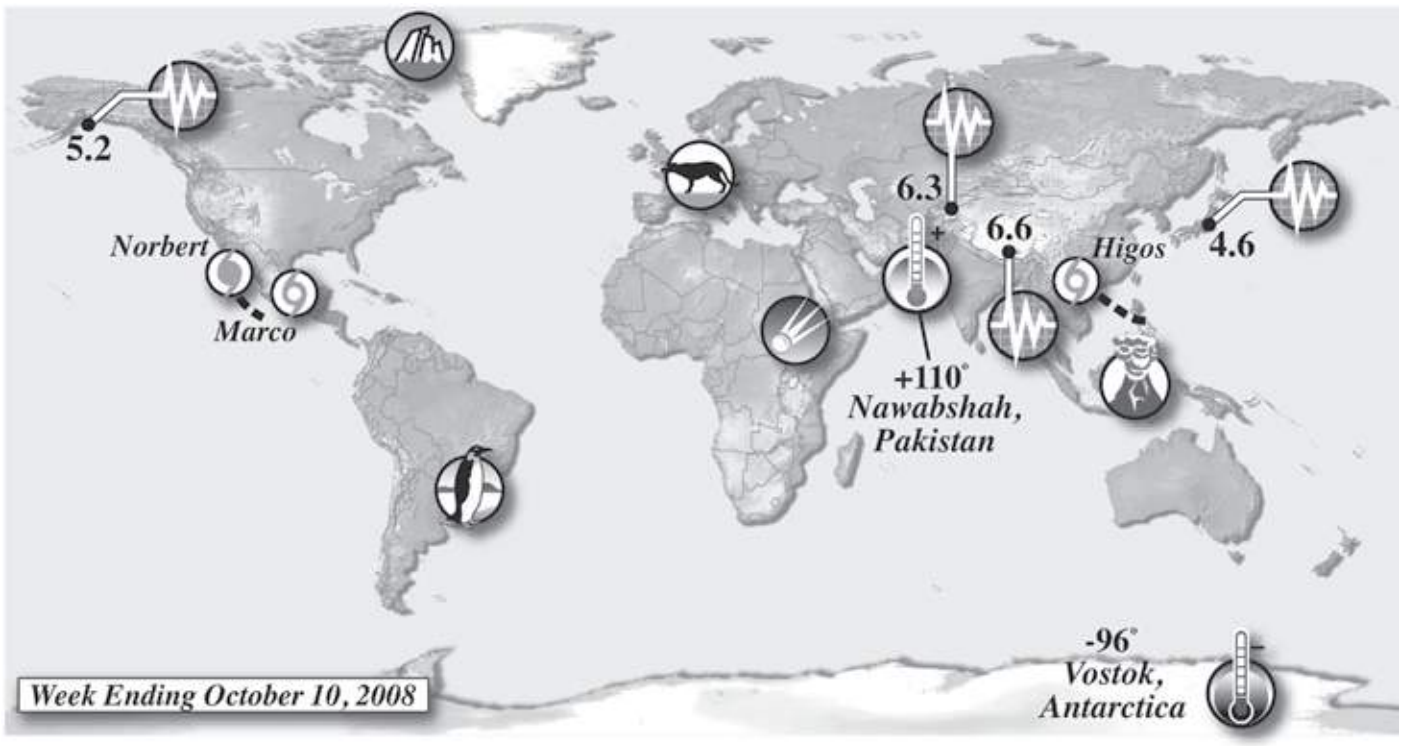
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Asteroid Alert

A project to detect and survey near-Earth objects was able to issue the world's first warning that an asteroid was about to strike the planet, or at least its atmosphere. The NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey discovered a chunk of space debris about the size of a kitchen table, and was quickly able to predict when and where it would enter the atmosphere and disintegrate few hours later. No photographs of the event were available from the remote region around southern Sudan, but the captain of a KLM airliner about 750 nautical miles southwest of the predicted atmospheric entry point said he saw a bright flash just prior to the anticipated impact time. An infrasound monitoring station in Kenya said it recorded a blast when object 8TA9D69 exploded with a force of between 1 and 2 kilotons of TNT. Such events are thought to have been very common throughout Earth's history, but the ability to predict them is in its infancy.

On the Brink

The prestigious International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) issued a warning that more than a third of the world's mammals could very well disappear forever. The dire prediction accompanied an update of the "Red List," which ranks the most threatened members of the planet's biodiversity. Hundreds of animals have just been added to that list, while many others moved up the scale of endangerment to the ultimate classification of being extinct. Despite the grim outlook for some creatures, Swiss-based IUCN points to the success that various conservation projects have accomplished in helping species crawl back from the brink of extinction.

Indonesian Eruption

Several hours of fiery activity from Sulawesi Island's Soputan volcano convinced Indonesian vulcanologists to raise the eruption warning level to the third-highest on a four-level scale. Lava was not expected to threaten any of those living on the 5,995-foot mountain's slopes, or the nearest village about 5 miles from the summit crater. A new lava dome has been building at Soputan's peak since a major eruption rocked the island in 1991.

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical Storm Higos brought strong winds and pounding surf to China's island province of Hainan on October 3, but there were no reports of fatalities from the storm's passing.

■ Powerful Hurricane Norbert was approaching Mexico's Baja California peninsula late in the week.

■ Tiny Tropical Storm Marco quickly lost what force it had attained over Mexico's Bay of Campeche after it blew ashore along the country's Gulf coast north of Veracruz.

Earthquakes

At least 75 people perished when a powerful temblor leveled an entire village in the central Asian republic of Kyrgyzstan. Officials said that 41 of the victims in the mountainous south of the country were children.

■ Chinese officials say that at least 9 people died when a powerful quake struck a remote area of Tibet, with many homes collapsing during the shaking.

■ Earth movements were also felt in metropolitan Tokyo and south-central Alaska.

Greenland Melt

Satellite observations made over the past summer reveal that the northern part of the Greenland ice sheet experienced a record number of melting days, producing weeks of extreme snow melt, according to a group of American researchers. Professor Marco Tedesco of the City College of New York found that microwave sensors aboard a U.S. Defense Meteorological Satellite Program's F13 satellite observed that melting in northern Greenland lasted up to 18 days longer over summer than ever seen before. Tedesco and his team believe abnormally warm surface temperatures, and possibly more sunshine this summer, were probably responsible for the melt.

Penguin Repatriation

Brazil launched a coordinated relocation project to help some of the more than 1,000 juvenile penguins return home after mysteriously washing ashore in record numbers on some of the country's tropical beaches. Wildlife and zoo personnel joined with the Brazilian air force to take the wayward Magellanic penguins to the south of the country, where it is hoped they will swim farther south to the cooler climes of Patagonia. It appears that warmer-than-normal ocean currents carried the birds thousands of miles farther north than usual in search of food. Nearly a thousand died of exhaustion, illness or starvation. After resting and being given a clean bill of health, some of the surviving misguided voyagers were herded into the sea in Brazil's far southern city of Pelotas.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

NY election mix-up: 'Osama' on the ballot

TROY, N.Y. (AP)—Who is running for president? In an upstate New York county, hundreds of voters have been sent absentee ballots in which they could vote for "Barack Osama." The absentee ballots sent to voters in Rensselaer County identified the two presidential candidates as "Barack Osama" and "John McCain." In the United States, the best-known individual named Osama is Osama bin Laden, leader of the al Qaida terrorist group behind the 2001 attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center in New York City. The typographical terror error was first reported by the Times Union of Albany. The elections office faxed a statement in which the two commissioners, Democrat Edward McDonough and Republican Larry Bugbee, said they regret the error but never acknowledge what the error was. "It's human error, it's very unfortunate, it's an embarrassment to our office, obviously," McDonough said in a later phone interview. "We wish we could turn back the clock, but we can't." When they discovered the mistake, officials shredded the remaining "Osama" ballots and mailed correct versions to the roughly 300 people who had already received them. Voters who received both versions will be allowed to send in either one and have it counted, McDonough said. Obama spokesman Blake Zeff said the campaign is "glad officials are working to correct this error and we assume it won't happen again."

Woman, 72, moves after finding snakes in apartment

MIDDLETOWN, Del. (AP)—When 72-year-old Gladys Dressner first saw two snakes last in her new apartment last month, she froze. Days later, when an eight-inch snake crawled across her bed, she screamed. Finally, after stepping on a baby black rat snake, she moved. A Maryland exterminator killed six snakes that were captured in Dressner's Middletown apartment. All six were about eight inches long and harmless. The exterminator suspects a previous tenant kept an adult snake as a pet. Dressner, who has high blood pressure, diabetes and a heart condition, wrote a letter to her property managers demanding to be moved to a new apartment. Property manager John Mastriana said she won't have to pay October's rent or moving costs.

Good Housekeeping

The high-tech P'7340 kitchen is modular, streamlined and ergonomically friendly.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The new Porsche-Poggenpohl kitchen, as shown at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, Calif., would run about $75,000.

Gentlemen, start your garbage disposals

By DAN NEIL
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

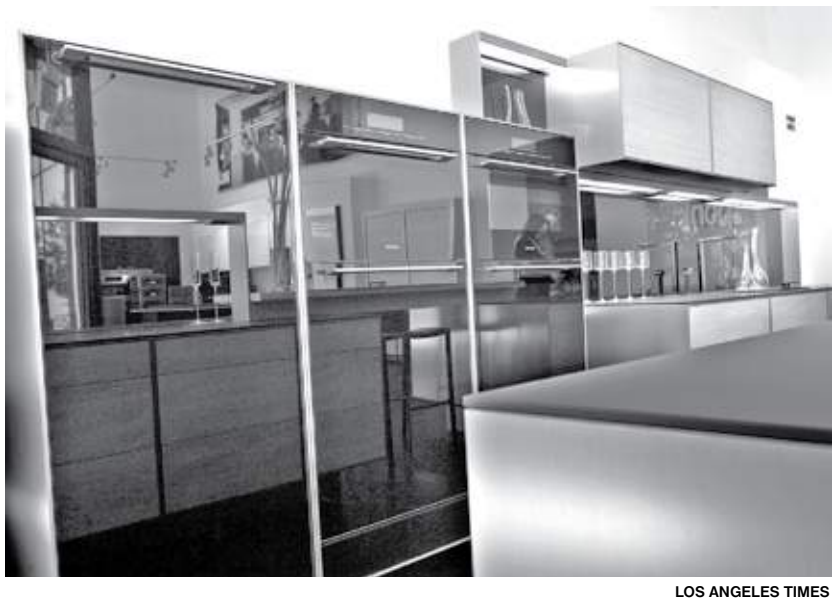
You're an evil genius, bent on world domination. You have a nuclear weapon on simmering away in the basement of your underground lair, deep within some Polynesian volcanic island. You still have to eat.

Bring me a sandwich, fool! Hah-hah-hah!

Which means you need a kitchen. May I suggest the Porsche Design Kitchen P'7340 built by Poggenpohl?

If cool, nocturnal and sinister are what you're looking for in kitchen cabinetry, then this suite of modular units and appliances is your ticket: free-standing islands and wall-mounted cabinets, high-tech Miele appliances and black chrome Dornbracht fixtures, all framed in brushed aluminum. Penned and engineered by Porsche Design—a branch of the company that also makes a certain sports car—the P'7340 had its West Coast premiere in Southern California recently.

The P'7340 is nicknamed the Kitchen for Men, a notion that's deliberately provocative—and clever marketing.
LOS ANGELES TIMES



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Miele appliances—convection, microwave and steam ovens, glass-top stove and automatic coffee/espresso/death-ray machine—are framed in 8-millimeter aluminum and faced in black glass. Is there enough window cleaner to keep this kitchen spotless?

The water volume and temperature control is at the counter's edge.
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Porsche Design and Poggenpohl call this the Kitchen for Men, a notion that is as deliberately provocative as it is a fairly clever bit of marketing. The premise seems to be that with male traits comes a love of the super sleek, the maximally minimal, the rigorously rectangular. This generally describes the Weltanschauung of Porsche Design, whose hugely successful men's accessories business—sunglasses, clothing, luggage, timepieces—seems to be aimed at skinny Berliners named Dieter.

I grant that this kitchen would be Martha Stewart's idea of hell. I further grant that it is, in a highly restrictive sense, dude heaven. For example, the cabinets don't have any handles. To open them, you push on the cabinets and the front panels float silently outward; in the case of hinged upper cabinets, there is a spring-loaded assisted-opening feature. As you close the cabinets, an electronic sensor activates a motorized cinch mechanism that pulls the doors for the last centimeters.

Further dude-itude is embodied in the integral appliances—convection, microwave and steam ovens, glass-top stove, and automatic coffee and espresso machine/death-ray—all offered in the 8-millimeter aluminum-framed rectangles and black-glass fascia. According to Ted Chappell, chief executive of Poggenpohl U.S., the sample kitchen at the Pacific Design Center would run about $75,000.

Of course, since it's aimed at men, the kitchen has to have a grandiose TV, an LCD-based multimedia center fitted into a black-glass panel. Because this rig is covered in glass, the video display can even be integrated into the back splash area.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The wall-mounted cabinets and islands are framed in brushed aluminum. The counters come in satinized glass or stone-based materials. The effect: total dude-itude.

Straight or gay, master chef or somebody who eats peanut butter out of the jar, every man digs a big TV. Cool.

And yet, a kitchen for men? Which men? My college roommates? For them, you would have needed one huge cabinet with dividers to organize cereal boxes and a dispenser that would eject cans of beer like kibble for gerbils. As for me, I like to cook, and to do so effectively, I want to be able to leave some appliances, such as my mega KitchenAid mixer, out on the counter. Alas, with the Kitchen for Men, leaving anything other than a tasteful feng shui flower arrangement on the counter makes the whole installation look like a hovel. I don't want a kitchen that requires me to maintain it as if Architectural Digest were coming over at any second. I want to leave the toaster out without worrying about degrading my kitchen's aerodynamics.

Furthermore, is there enough Windex in the world to keep this kitchen shiny? (The countertops come in satinized glass or stone-based materials.) Somebody better check with SC Johnson & Son.

In engineering, there's a phrase: high criticality. The Porsche/Poggenpohl kitchen has it in spades.

As a product line, Poggenpohl's new kitchen caters to an expanding luxury market that splits the difference between bespoke custom cabinetry and pret-a-porter installs. The pull-outs, overhead cabinets, islands, lighting arches and appliances come in a variety of dimensions, but you can't really order custom sizes unless you are prepared to pay a major premium and wait a long time. Not just any contractor can slam one of these babies in, either. Poggenpohl will send out an engineer to make sure everything is plumbed and plum.

As an addition to the made world, the Porsche Kitchen for Men is exquisite. The fit and finish are gorgeous and the aesthetic—glowing, minimal, geometric, hovering weightlessly in the future tense of domestic design—is so sexy I can hardly stand it.

But as a kitchen? Only if you don't cook.

Ready, set, declutter: The end of the tunnel

By LIZ SEYMOUR
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Last part of a series

After 11 weeks, more than $500 in new storage containers and dozens of overstuffed trash bags, I have cleaned out my attic.

WASHINGTON—After 11 weeks, more than $500 in new storage containers and dozens of overstuffed trash bags, I have cleaned out my attic.

It's not just neat, it's organized. That means the china rests next to the crystal and the silver, packed nicely in new quilted boxes. The Christmas cookie jar sits on top of the boxes of tree ornaments. My 2-year-old son's art portfolio lies atop the plastic bin of baby clothes I want to keep.

Everything is labeled and lined up along either side of the attic, leaving an open space more than 10 feet wide. So wide, I was able to unroll two Oriental rugs that had been rolled up for nearly five years.

Organizing the attic was an emotional experience. I had to face the fact that I was never going to use a lot of the stuff I inherited from my parents and it was time to get rid of some of it. I had to admit that there was no reason to hold on to the high chair and other baby gear I'd been storing, because I wasn't going to have any more children. And I had to acknowledge my failure at household bookkeeping after spending hours sorting through boxes of outdated bills, tax returns and other documents.

Beyond the emotional toll, this was a back-breaking job. It took me weeks, because you can only work in two- or three-hour shifts. Even armed with a pitcher of water and having an attic that's more climate-controlled than most, the sorting and storing became very tedious.

This is why I couldn't complete this project on my own. Caitlin Shear, a professional organizer with A Sorted Affair in Fairfax, Va., (I love her firm's name), came to my house in Northwest Washington for two hours every Friday morning to nudge and prod me forward and remind me that an attic should be for long-term storage, not for just dumping things until someone decides what to do with them.

She offered advice on what to keep, what to donate and what to throw away.

She carted my donations to various nonprofit organizations in the region so they wouldn't sit for months in my garage. She offered ideas on reusing some stuff I couldn't part with but I didn't really need. And she was a compassionate listener when attic treasures revived painful memories of my mother's unsuccessful battle with leukemia and my father's subsequent decline.

The overwhelming emotion I feel is relief. I was embarrassed about the way the place looked and ashamed that I could not find anything. Now I am proud and less stressed. Here are some lessons I've learned:

1. So much of what was up there was trash.

Week after week as Caitlin and I sifted through my clutter, a lot of what we found needed to be thrown out. Not donated, not reused. I'm talking empty boxes and shopping bags, crumpled-up newspaper, mailing tubes, ATM receipts from a decade ago, the lease for the apartment my husband, Bob, and I rented nine years ago. Caitlin estimates that we threw out 60 percent of what was in the attic. We donated about 10 percent and kept the remaining 30 percent.

2. Time changes everything.

I don't think I would have donated anything two or three years ago. Five years ago, I don't think Bob would have considered donating his archives of the 1995 Detroit newspaper strike. Caitlin said many people hold onto things long after their usefulness has ended because they reflect a time in life they don't want to let go of. In her own life, she said, it was hard to get rid of the very expensive yarn she bought in 1989 but never put to good use. The same with the leotards from the ballet class she loved but no longer has the time to attend.

3. You're never really done.

My attic looks great, but I need to work to keep it that way. Caitlin recommends a seasonal approach. For example, after Christmas, she wants me to see if there were any ornaments or decorations I did not hang. They might be candidates for donations. Tax time is a good opportunity to sort through paperwork and check if I'm holding on to documents I don't need. In June, when school lets out, she suggests I sort through the clothing and mementos I've collected for my daughter, Maggie, and my son, Charlie. Caitlin also recommends having a few extra storage containers on hand to immediately start a new project and avoid piling stuff on top of stuff.

When transplants are tricky

By SCOTT AKER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Q . I have two indoor plants, a schefflera and a ficus, which are about 17 feet tall. They both started out 20 years ago as typical supermarket plants. I have transplanted them a couple of times into large pots, the last time about 10 years ago. They are now so large and heavy that there is no way I can move them into larger pots. The schefflera seems to be doing OK, but the ficus is kind of sparse. My guess is that it is totally rootbound. Is there some course of care I could follow short of transplantation that would maintain their health and extend their lives?

A. You can keep mature houseplants at a constant size, but you must prune both the branches and the roots, and the project is best done when the plants are repotted. You can use the same pot, or even a smaller one.

Schefflera and weeping fig take well to pruning, so you can remove as much as half the branches to keep the plant in scale with the pot and contain its growth. Cut the longest branches back to the main trunk.

Prune the roots by teasing away the soil from the outer portion of the root ball and clipping off any long, exposed roots. Late spring is the optimum time for this, so the plant can recover as the days continue to lengthen. Now is the second best time, particularly if the plants are going to cause your back to be injured.

Repot the plants, and keep the soil barely moist. When you see new growth, give them a monthly dose of fertilizer and water them more thoroughly, allowing them to dry slightly between waterings.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q. My purple wisteria has been vigorous, healthy and in flower each spring for a decade. Recently I have noticed that all the leaves have slightly yellow blotches and the vine is dropping leaves. My local nursery advises that it probably has a terminal virus and that there is nothing I can do. When I check the Internet, I get a wide variety of answers, some suggesting that I add various nutrients to the soil. What's your advice?

A. The malady could be a virus. Wisterias are often propagated by cuttings, and cuttings from virused plants will be infected from the start. The disease can remain hidden for many years and then appear under certain environmental conditions. Viruses are not necessarily a death sentence, and many landscape plants can contain one or more viruses without lethal consequences.

Alternatively, the spots might have been caused by a fungal or bacterial infection, possibly Phyllosticta wisteriae or Pseudomonas syringae.

I'll venture a guess that a fungal or bacterial leaf spot is the cause of the problem. Take a close look at the yellow spots and you should find a small area of dead tissue at the center of each one. Premature leaf drop, in particular, is a hallmark of Phyllosticta. This year's wet weather has favored diseases that have not been significant problems in many years.

I would do nothing more than rake up the fallen leaves. Your wisteria is likely to grow vigorously now that hot weather has made conditions inhospitable for the fungus. Prune it near the end of the summer to promote good flower bud formation and to keep the rampant vines under control. This will also help to improve air circulation and might help to prevent disease development next spring.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Frittata Lorraine

The classic ingredients of a quiche Lorraine—bacon and Gruyé re cheese—without the crust make this skillet dish a favorite weeknight meal.

3 slices bacon
2 medium (about 3/4 pound) all-purpose potatoes, peeled and coarsely shredded
1 medium onion, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
4 large eggs
4 large egg whites
2 ounces Gruyé re cheese, shredded (1/2 cup)
1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper

1. In nonstick 10-inch skillet with oven-safe handle (or cover handle with heavy-duty foil for baking in oven later), cook bacon over medium heat until browned. Transfer bacon to paper towels to drain; crumble bacon. Discard all but 1 tablespoon bacon drippings.

2. To skillet with drippings, add shredded potatoes, onion and 1/4 teaspoon salt, and cook until vegetables are tender and golden, about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

3. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 400 F. In medium bowl, with wire whisk or fork, beat eggs and egg whites with bacon, cheese, pepper, remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/3 cup water.

4. Stir egg mixture into potato mixture in skillet and cook over medium heat, covered, 5 minutes or until egg mixture begins to set around edge. Remove cover and place skillet in oven; bake 10 minutes or until frittata is set.

5. Cut frittata into wedges to serve. Serves 4.

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Finding the right caulk

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: I discovered some small cracks in the wood frames of my back door and windows. A friend told me an easy fix is to just caulk over the cracks. But at the hardware store, I found several different types of caulk. Which is the best to use on outside wood frames?—DIY Newbie in Ohio

A: Each type of caulk available at your local home-improvement store has somewhat different properties—even though their main purpose is to create a durable seal against the elements. Here's a short guide to the different types:

■ Acrylic latex: An all-around caulk with an acrylic base, that's easy to work with. Keep a tube of it around for any job where the area normally stays dry - it's also the best for small cracks in wood trim. Cleans up with water.

■ Vinyl latex (a.k.a. polyvinyl acetate): Another all-around caulk that can be used in wet areas, like the tub or shower.

■ Butyl rubber: Harder to apply, but good for outdoor use—including sealing window frames, gutter and downspout seams—because of its ability to flex with changes in temperature and its weather resistance.

■ Silicone: Perhaps the strongest bonding caulk available—yet silicone doesn't hold paint at all. (Colored silicone caulk is available.) Make sure the work area is well-ventilated. Clean excess silicone using rubbing alcohol.

■ Oil-based: This is the least expensive caulk you can purchase, and you get what you pay for. Once the oil has leached from the material—which happens in a couple years depending on where it is used—the caulking dries, shrinks and crumbles out of the cracks.

HOME TIP: To prevent the tip of a caulking tube from drying out between uses, wipe the outside clean, poke a nail inside the tip to clear it, then cover the tip with a slip-on pencil eraser or an electrical cap.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The Good Life

A brief tour of Tokyo, thanks to a Gwen Stefani song

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

I love Tokyo. Granted I only was in the city for about five hours and only explored one district, but from what I saw, I fell in love. It was refreshing to see skyscrapers again; to experience the hustle and bustle of big city life; and to just be another number among millions. Don't get me wrong, I love the laid back atmosphere and *laissez faire* attitude of the CNMI, but sometimes I just want to see some speed past me talking on their cell phone or hear a car honk their horn.

A 12-hour layover in Narita, en route to Fiji and ultimately Western Samoa, allowed me to travel to Tokyo. It was my first time in Asia, although I don't know if most people would even consider my time in the Japanese city as a visit, but for the sake of dinner conversation I will.

People warned me that Japan, or any other country in Asia for that matter, might be the first time that I will really feel out of place. I've traveled through Europe and in every country I visited I could pass for a citizen (that is until I opened my mouth and butchered their language. (who knew Czech words were so long?) When I travel to a country I like to make sure I can at least say thank you in their language, but I failed to look up that phrase before I left Saipan. So instead of giving an incoherent "thank you," I ended up spending my day thanking people in English with a big smile, hoping it would convey, "I'm sorry. I really appreciate that you know some English because I'm hopeless at Japanese."

KRISTI EATON
School children wash their hands before entering the Meiji Shrine.

Once on the subway to Tokyo from Narita, I studied my map intently and made sure I sat so I could see the flashing screen, listing the next stop, perfectly. I was determined not to get lost and end up in Katmandu. (I got on an express train once in Germany and found myself two hours outside my original destination. Luckily, I had a friend with me so we could laugh about it together.)

I didn't get lost and found my stop, Harajuko. I'm a little ashamed to admit that the only reason I ended up in Harajuku was because, when the woman at the information desk at the airport listed the various places I could go to, Harajuku was the only place I had heard of before. And this is only because of the Gwen Stefani song.

Upon my arrival, I was mesmerized by the shops and the big city feel and my inability to read most of the signs. But it didn't matter. I was in Tokyo! I felt like I was 8 years old again and on my way to Disney World. I took a chance and walked down a random street, which ended up taking me to Omotesando, where all of the designer shops—Prada, Louis Vuitton, Donna Karen, etc., are located. I saw a few of the young women famous for their unique style entering and exiting stores, but it being a Thursday, most of the more outlandish trendsetters weren't out; that's apparently reserved for Saturday nights. But I was in awe of the shoes the girls I did see were wearing. I don't even know if they could be called shoes, I think the four-inch heels more resembled torture devices. Throughout the day I would look down at my flip-flops sheepishly, but thankful for the cushy bottoms.

As I continued on, I came across the United Nations University. Who knew they had a university? I sure didn't but it was impressive nonetheless. Next I proceeded to Yoyogi Park, covered in trees and lush shrubbery. I again felt like I was in another big city, this time New York City, and I was walking through Central Park. I stumbled upon the Meiji Shrine, where I learned the proper way to cleanse my hand and mouth before entering (wash left hand then right then sip the water using the left hand).

The shrine, constructed in 1920 dedicated to the deified spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife, Empress Shoken, was filled with people of all backgrounds, most seemed to be tourists, but there were also school children and men in business suits praying at the shrine on their lunch hour. I stood back and watched as each proceeded to perform the ritual prayer method.

My time was nearly up and I began to head back to the metro station to return to Narita. Unfortunately, I assumed going back would be as easy as coming. I was wrong. If it weren't for a nice French man who spoke English helping me I might still be in Tokyo. Although I guess that wouldn't be that bad.

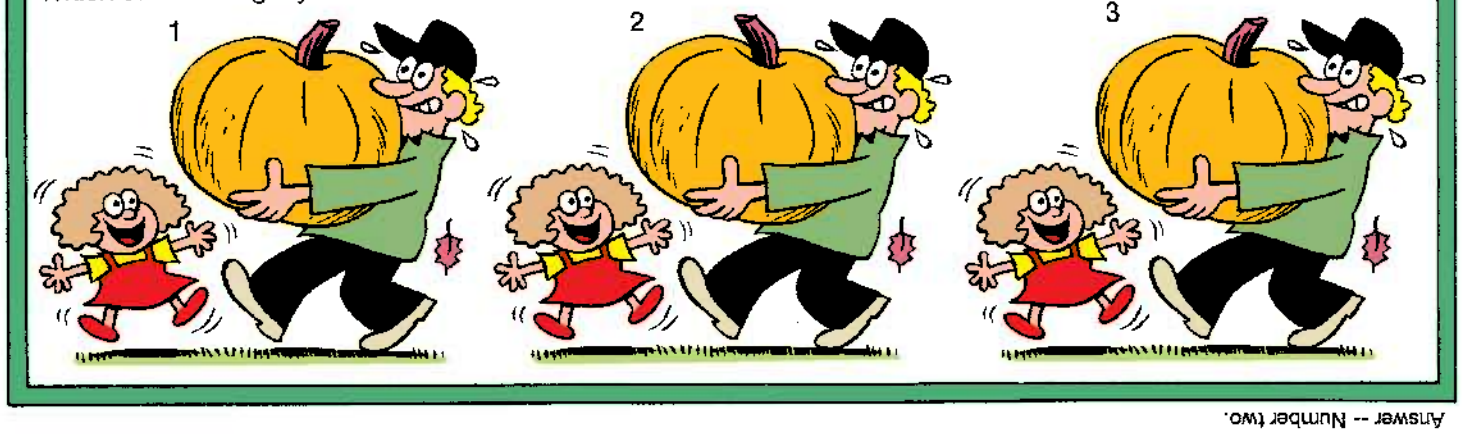
KRISTI EATON
A woman walks by the Dolce and Gabana store in Harakuku.

KRISTI EATON
Yoyogi Park

KRISTI EATON
A man reads the prayers visitors have written on tablets at the Meiji Shrine.

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Which scene is slightly different from the other two?

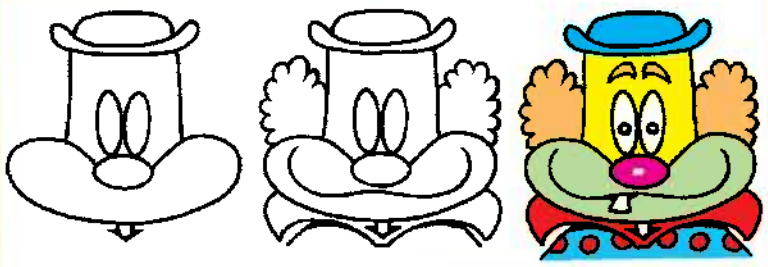


Answer -- Number two.

Shady Shrew says he saw the bear steal Chief Mutt's tires 10 minutes ago. The bear insists he is innocent. He claims he is just walking home after paying for a book. Shady snidely asked, "If you just paid for a book, then where is the book?" Is Slylock Fox convinced the bear's alibi is a lie?

Solution -- No. Further questioning revealed that the bear paid a fine for an overdue library book. Shady Shrew soon confessed to the crime.

HOW TO DRAW a clown



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Ndinelago Coleman, Mays Landing, NJ

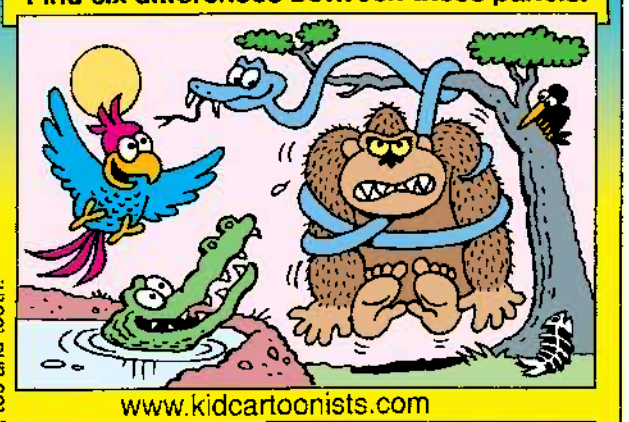
Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

A gorilla named Koko can communicate with American Sign Language. She has mastered over ...

a) 100 words.
b) 500 words.
c) 1,000 words.
d) 10,000 words.

Answer -- c)

Find six differences between these panels.



www.kidcartoonists.com

Answer -- Tongue, feather, branch, ear, toe and tooth.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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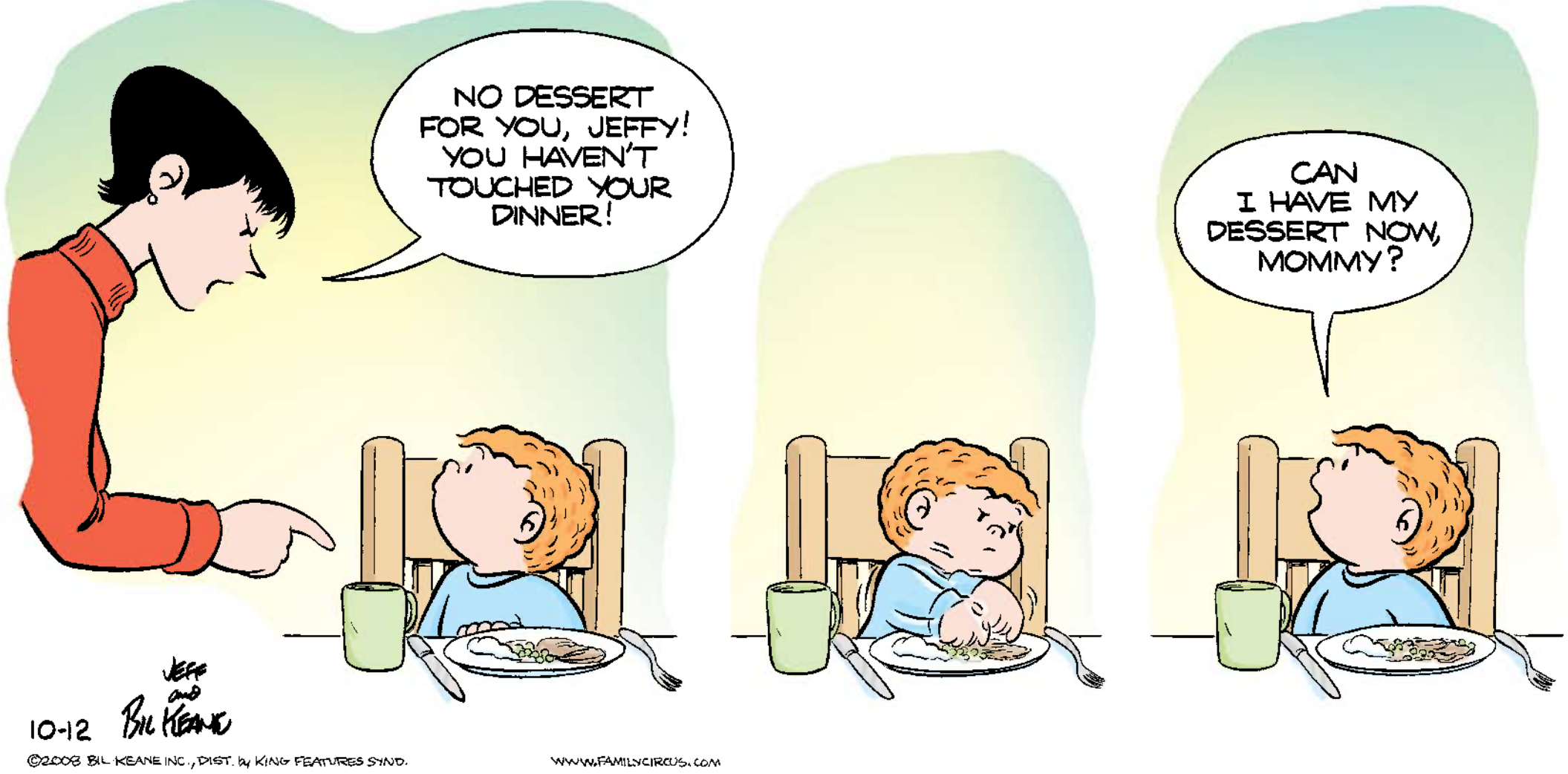
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane



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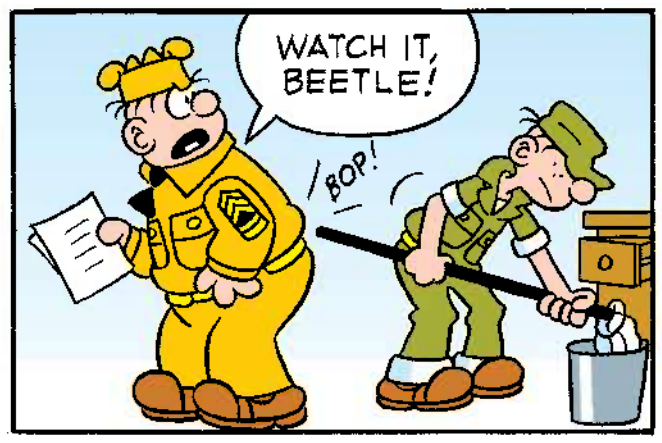

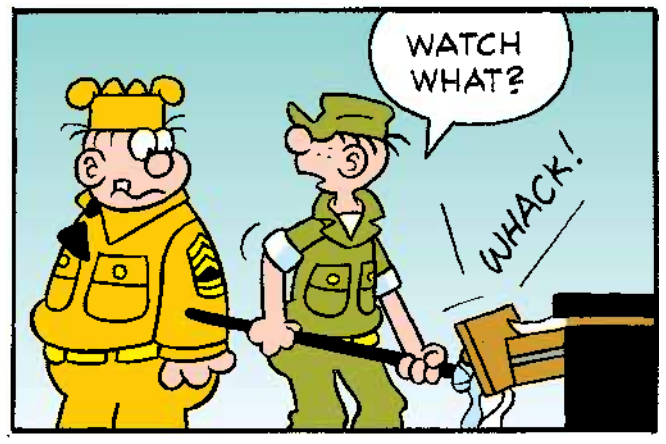

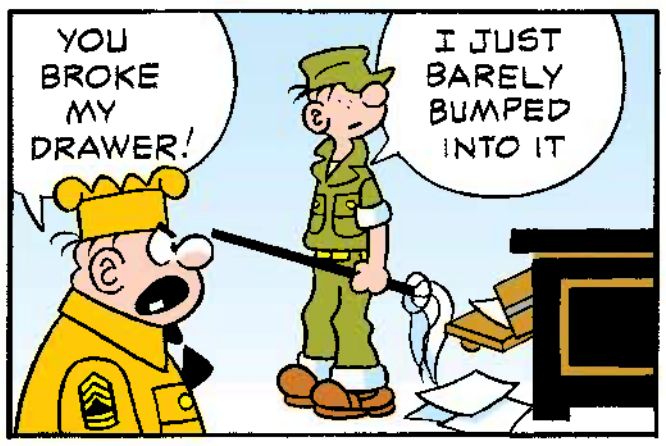

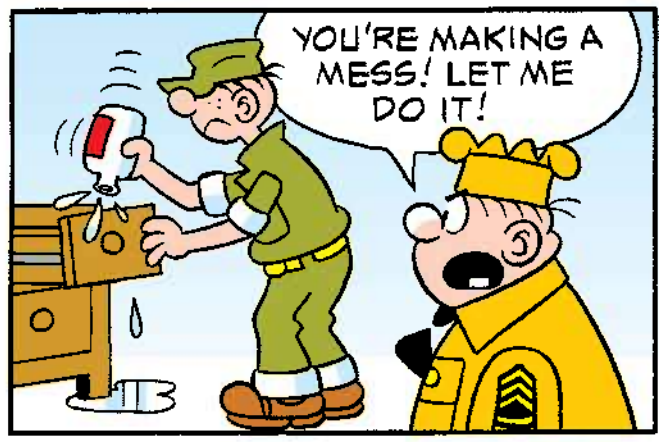

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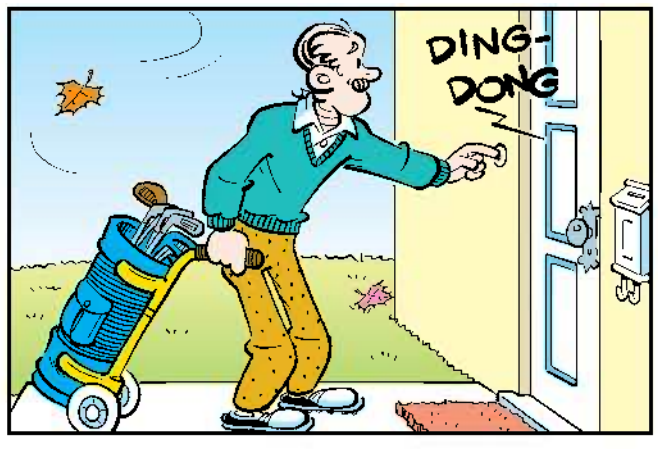
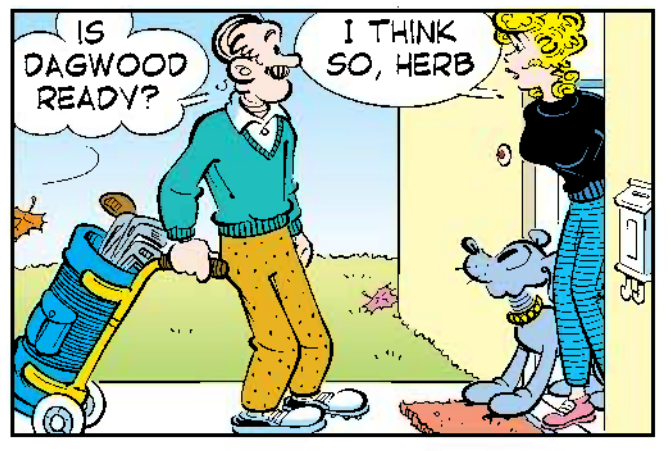
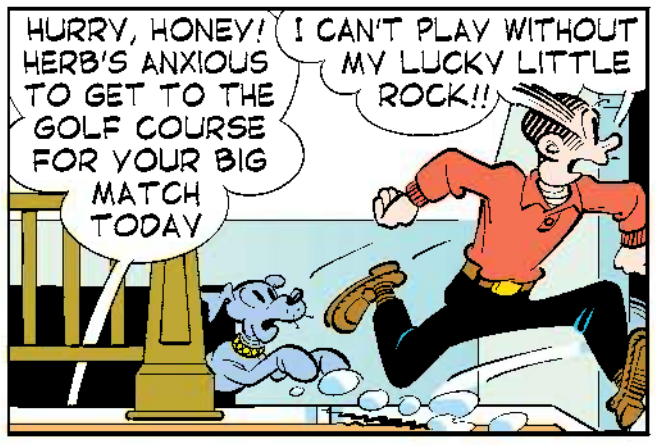
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL







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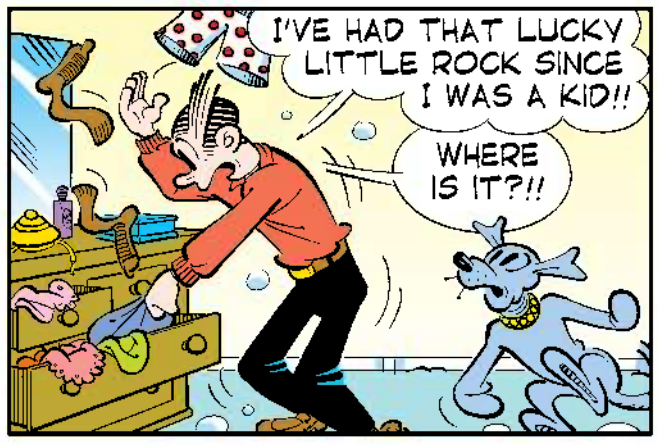

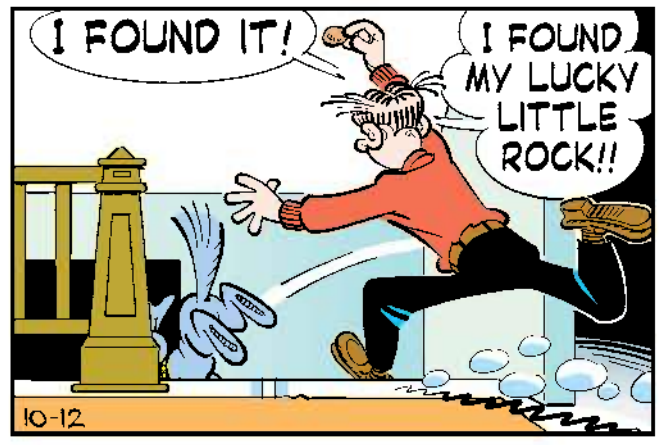

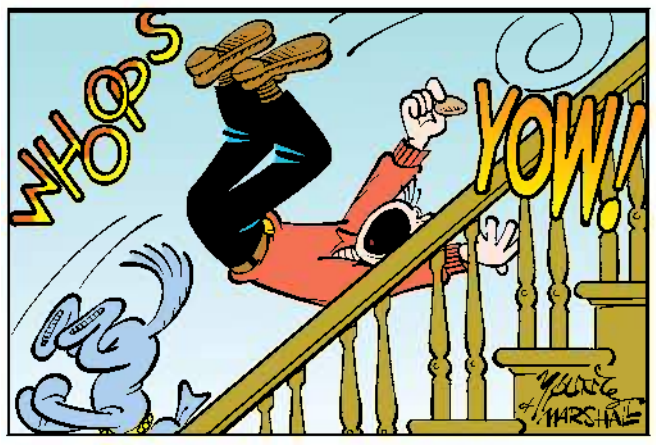

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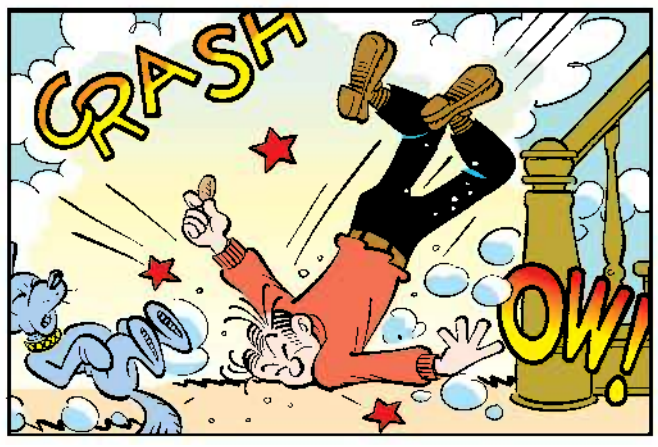
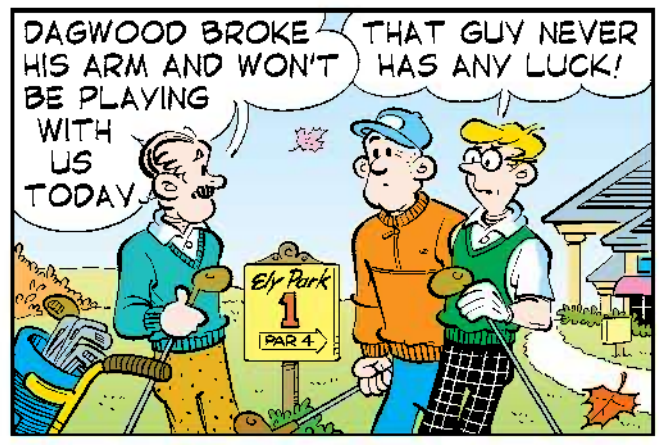
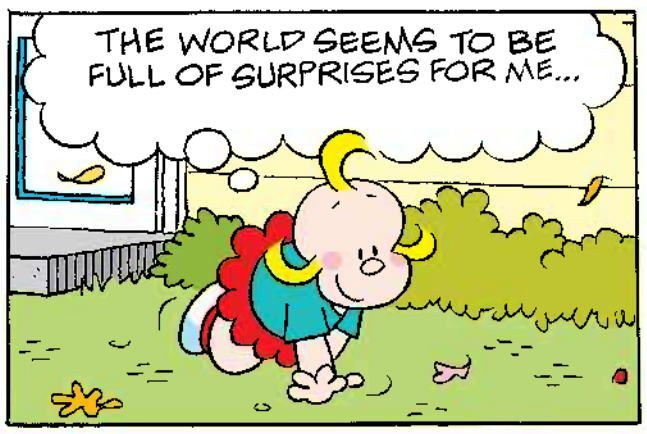
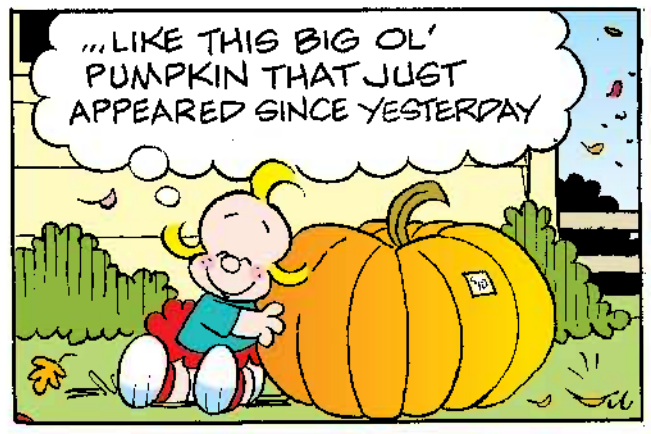


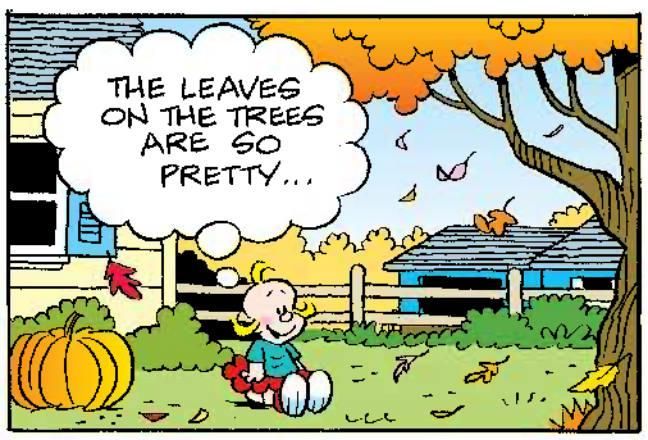


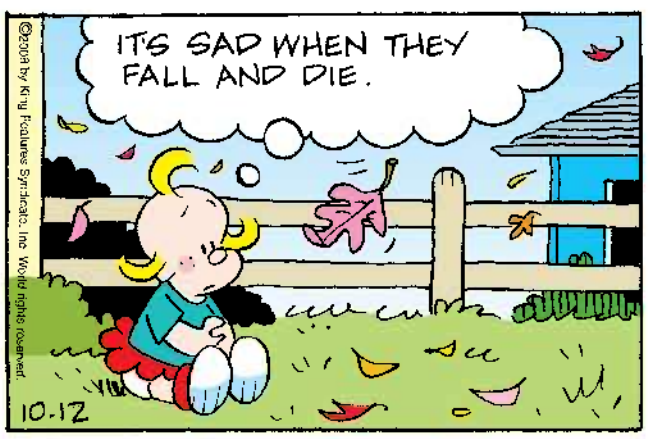
Hi and Lois

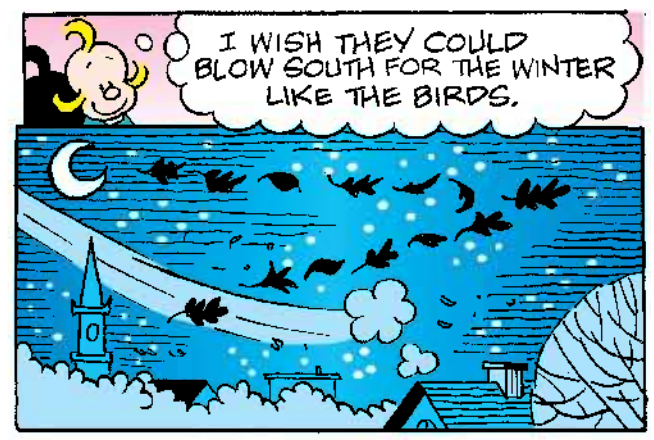
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER

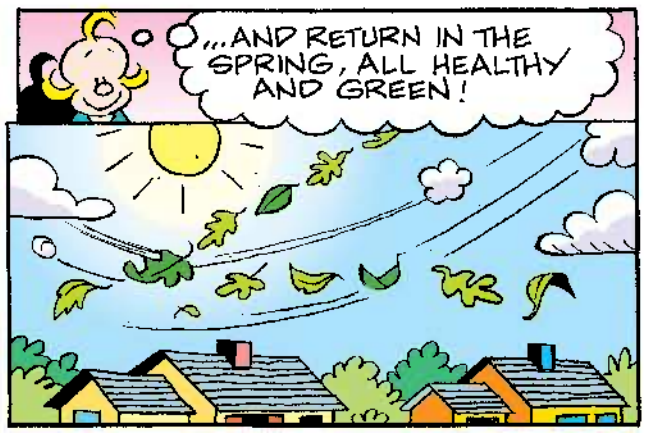


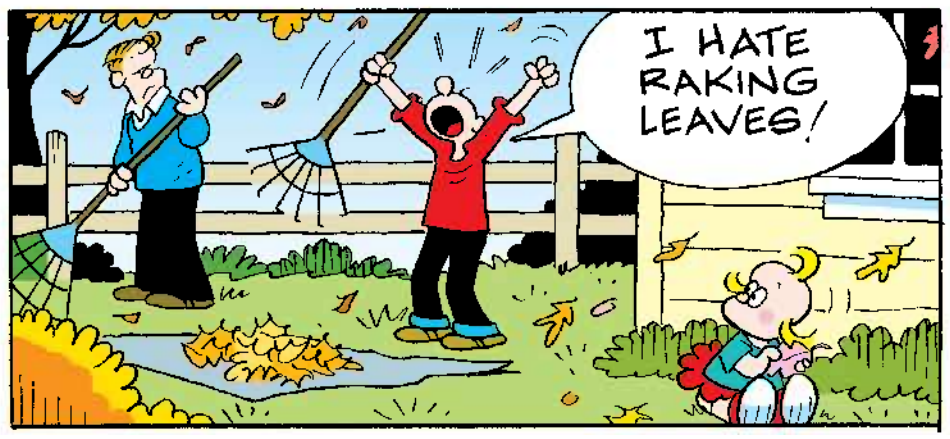








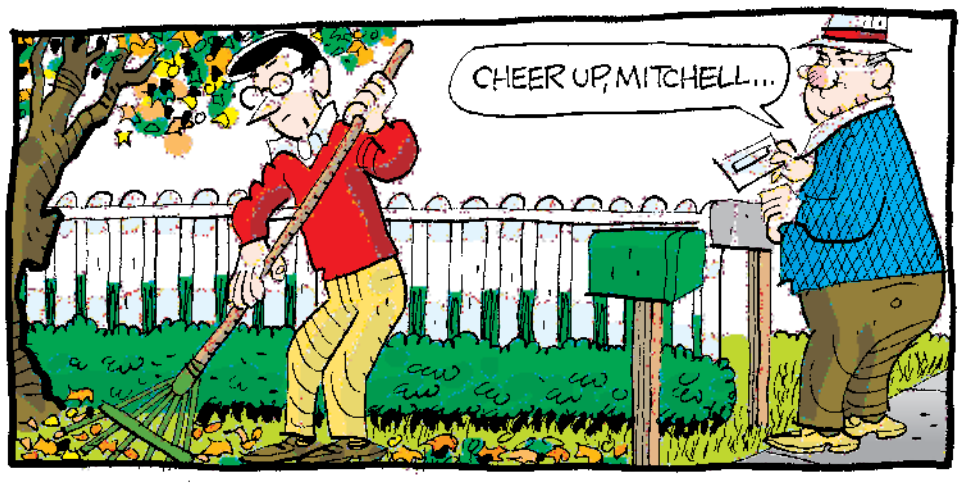


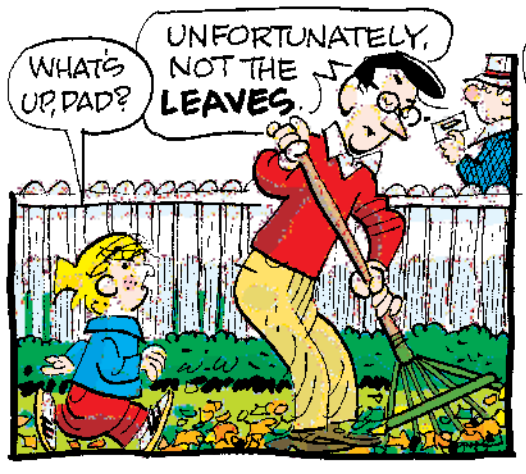


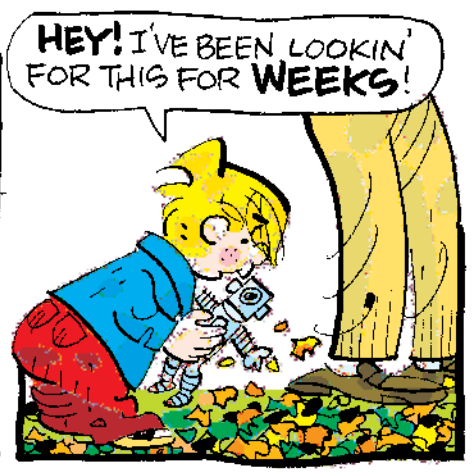
Dennis the Menace

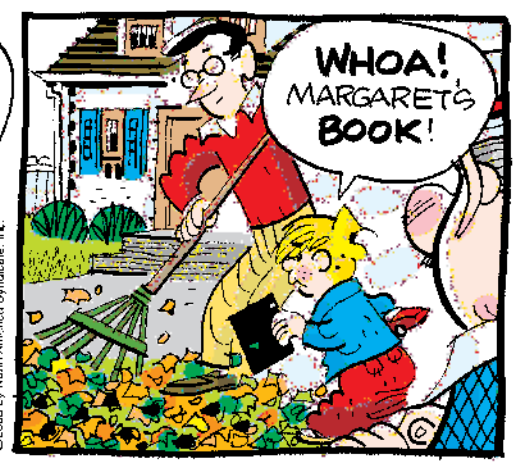
Hank Ketcham's

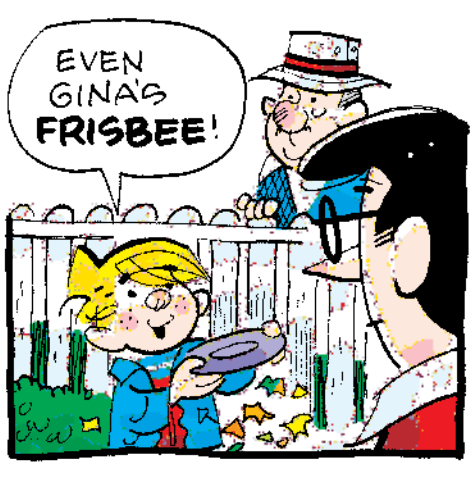
The Fall Guy

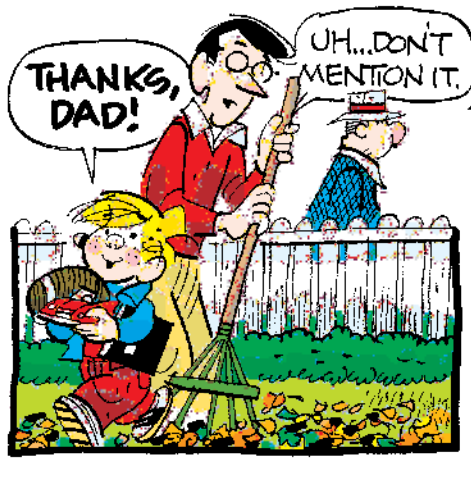


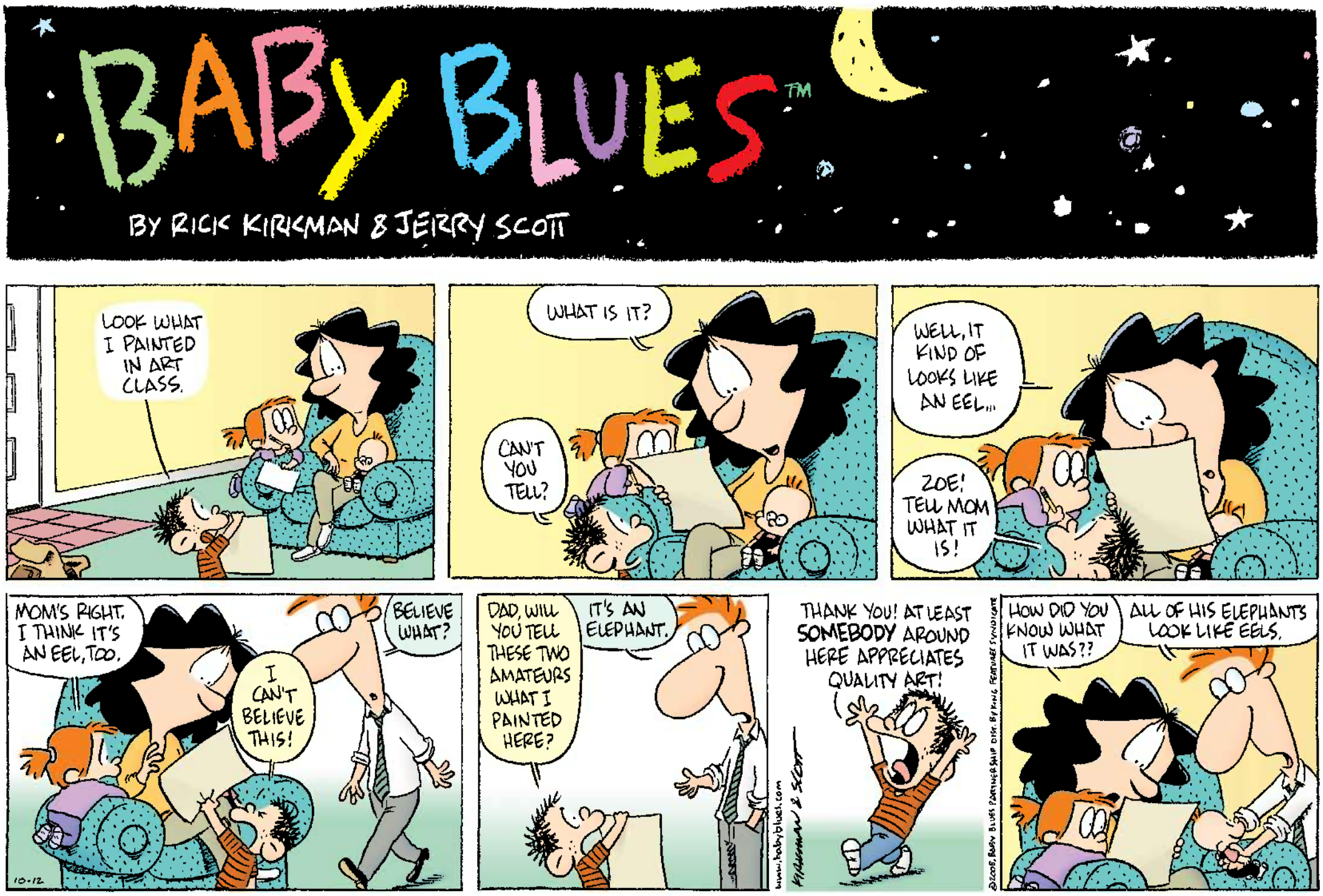











BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
LOOK WHAT I PAINTED IN ART CLASS.
WHAT IS IT?
CAN'T YOU TELL?
WELL, IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE AN EEL...
ZOE! TELL MOM WHAT IT IS!
MOM'S RIGHT. I THINK IT'S AN EEL, TOO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
BELIEVE WHAT?
DAD, WILL YOU TELL THESE TWO AMATEURS WHAT I PAINTED HERE?
IT'S AN ELEPHANT.
THANK YOU! AT LEAST SOMEBODY AROUND HERE APPRECIATES QUALITY ART!
HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS??
ALL OF HIS ELEPHANTS LOOK LIKE EELS.
10-12
www.babyblues.com
Kirkman & Scott
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your Aries charm helps persuade others to listen to your proposal. But it's still a long way from acceptance, unless you can stand up to the tough questions that are set to follow.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Plan to share a weekend getaway from all the pressures of your hectic workaday world with a very special someone. You could be pleasantly surprised at what develops.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your keen insight once again helps you handle a challenging situation with a clearer perception of what it's really all about. What you learn helps you make a difficult decision.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) If you want to steer clear of getting involved in a new family dispute, say so. Your stand might cause hurt feelings for some, but overall, you'll be respected for your honesty.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Expect recognition for your efforts in getting a project into operation. Besides the more practical rewards, your Lion's heart will be warmed by the admiration of your colleagues.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Set aside time to rid yourself of clutter that might well be drawing down your creative energies. Consider asking someone to help you decide what stays and what goes.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A colleague could make a request that might place you in an awkward position with co-workers. Best advice: Share your concerns with an associate you can trust.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your energy levels are way up, allowing you to take on the added challenge of a task you've been hoping to secure. Expect this move to lead to an important opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your continuing sense of confidence in what you've set out to do gives encouragement to others. Expect to see more people asking to add their efforts to yours.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might think it would be best to reject a suggestion others insist would be unworkable. But you might be surprised by what you find if you give it a chance.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Changing a decision might disappoint some people, but the important thing is that you be honest with yourself. Don't go ahead with anything you have doubts about.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) There could be some fallout from an emotional confrontation that you really should deal with before moving on. Best to start fresh with a clean, clear slate.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your honesty not only helps you make decisions for yourself, but also helps others find the right choices for themselves.

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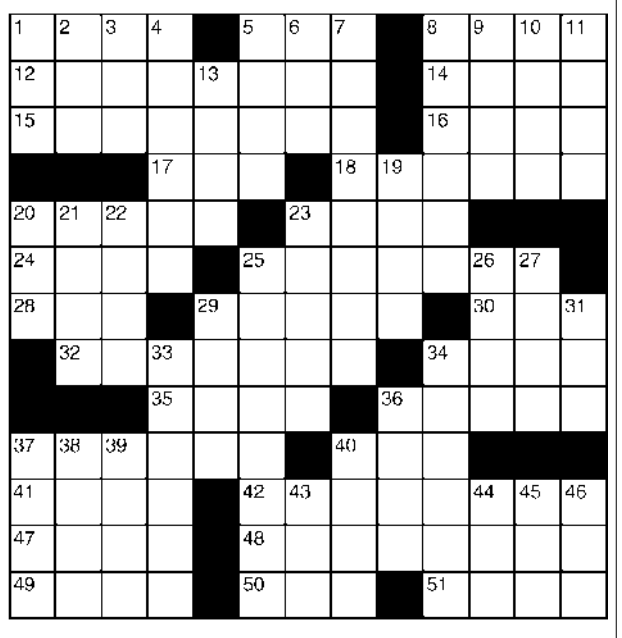
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Priceless?
5 Garfield or Heathcliff
8 Invitation letters
12 Waterproof fabric
14 Eastern potentate
15 Reinvest
16 Staff
17 Potent brew
18 Pictures
20 Path
23 — du Vent
24 Session with a shrink
25 Desk type
28 Chow down
29 Stitched up
30 Tavern
32 Race driver's protector
34 Silent
35 MGM emblem
36 Speed
37 Proofreader's finds
40 — de deux
41 Wander
42 Attendance check
47 Head over heels
48 Talk for two
49 Tributes in verse
50 Pigpen
51 Frat-party wear

DOWN
1 Supporting
2 Carnival city
3 Right angle
4 Elongated cream puff
5 Inlet
6 Goddess of ruinous impulse
7 Hitchcock film, typically
8 Meal
9 Urban blight
10 Contemptible
11 C. in C.
13 Lounge about
19 Pinochle declaration
20 Commonest English word
21 Sound from 35-Across
22 Car
23 Des Moines denizen
25 Gets back on
26 Piece of work
27 Green shot
29 Skirt feature, sometimes
31 Spelling
33 Camels' cousins
34 Good-luck critter
36 Corridor
37 Therefore
38 With 39-Down, drivers' anger
39 See 38-Down
40 Tactic
43 Chic no more
44 Past
45 Drag along
46 Meadow

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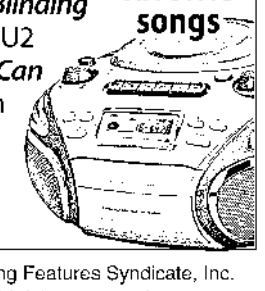
top ten

1. *Ready or Not* Fugees
2. *What's Going On* Marvin Gaye
3. *I'm On Fire* Bruce Springsteen
4. *Gimme Shelter* Rolling Stones
5. *Sinnerman* Nina Simone
6. *Touch the Sky* Kanye West
7. *You'd Be So Easy to Love* Frank Sinatra
8. *Think* Aretha Franklin
9. *City of Blinding Lights* U2
10. *Yes We Can* will.i.am

Barack Obama's favorite songs

Source: *Blender* magazine



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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

United States

Alaska panel finds Palin abused power in firing

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin unlawfully abused her power as governor by trying to have her former brother-in-law fired as a state trooper, the chief investigator of an Alaska legislative panel concluded Friday. The politically charged inquiry imperiled her reputation as a reformer on John McCain's Republican ticket.

Investigator Stephen Branchflower, in a report to a bipartisan panel that looked into the matter, found Palin in violation of a state ethics law that prohibits public officials from using their office for personal gain.

Palin

The inquiry looked into her dismissal of Public Safety Commissioner Walter Monegan, who said he lost his job because he resisted pressure to fire a state trooper involved in a bitter divorce and custody battle with the governor's sister. Palin says Monegan was fired as part of a legitimate budget dispute.

Monegan's firing was lawful, the report found, but Palin let the family grudge influence her decision-making—even if it was not the sole reason Monegan was dismissed.

AP

State Sen. Kim Elton, D-Juneau, chairman of a joint Legislative Council, right, talks with vice-chair Rep. Nancy Dahlstrom, R-Anchorage, at the Legislative Information Building in Anchorage, Alaska, Friday Oct. 10, 2008 as Alaska lawmakers announce the release of the ethics report on Gov. Sarah Palin's abuse of power investigation.

"I feel vindicated," Monegan said. "It sounds like they've validated my belief and opinions. And that tells me I'm not totally out in left field."

Branchflower said Palin violated a statute of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act. Lawmakers don't have the authority to sanction her for such a violation, and they gave no indication they would take any action against her.

Under Alaska law, it is up to the state's Personnel Board—which is conducting its own investigation into the matter—to decide whether Palin violated state law and, if so, must refer it to the Senate president for disciplinary action. Violations also carry a possible fine of up to $5,000.

Palin attorney Thomas Van Flein disagreed with Branchflower's conclusions. "In order to violate the ethics law, there has to be some personal gain, usually financial. Mr. Branchflower has failed to identify any financial gain," he said.

McCain booed after trying to calm anti-Obama crowd

LAKEVILLE, Minn. (AP)—The anger is getting raw at Republican rallies and John McCain is acting to tamp it down. McCain was booed by his own supporters Friday when, in an abrupt switch from raising questions about Barack Obama's character, he described the Democrat as a "decent person and a person that you do not have to be scared of as president of the United States."

McCain

A sense of grievance spilling into rage has gripped some GOP events this week as McCain supporters see his presidential campaign lag against Obama. Some in the audience are making it personal, against the Democrat. Shouts of "traitor," "terrorist," "treason," "liar," and even "off with his head" have rung from the crowd at McCain and Sarah Palin rallies, and gone unchallenged by them.

McCain changed his tone Friday when supporters at a town hall pressed him to be rougher on Obama. A voter said, "The people here in Minnesota want to see a real fight." Another said Obama would lead the U.S. into socialism. Another said he did not want his unborn child raised in a country led by Obama.

"If you want a fight, we will fight," McCain said. "But we will be respectful. I admire Sen. Obama and his accomplishments." When people booed, he cut them off.

"I don't mean that has to reduce your ferocity," he said. "I just mean to say you have to be respectful."

Presidential candidates are accustomed to raucous rallies this close to Election Day and welcome the enthusiasm. But they are also traditionally monitors of sorts from the stage. Part of their job is to leaven proceedings if tempers run ragged and to rein in an out-of-bounds comment from the crowd.

ACROSS THE NATION

Soldier punished in beating of Jewish trainee

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—An Army trainee will face nonjudicial punishment rather than criminal charges for beating a Jewish soldier so badly he was treated by a hospital, the military said Friday, in a move that keeps many details of the attack secret. Fort Benning commanders decided not to seek a court-martial in the attack on Pvt. Michael Handman and will resolve it as a personnel matter rather than a crime. Fort Benning spokeswoman Monica Manganaro said the Army would not release the name of the soldier responsible for the attack, the punishment he received or the results of a military police investigation because nonjudicial punishments are protected under the federal Privacy Act.

Homeless man dies after being set ablaze in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A homeless man died after being doused with gasoline and set on fire on a street where he had lived for many years and was a familiar face to residents of Koreatown, police and local merchants said Friday. Police were called to Third Street west of downtown Thursday evening and found the man, who was pronounced dead at a hospital. A man in his 20s was seen throwing gasoline on the man, chasing him, throwing more on him and running from the scene, said Deputy Chief Sergio Diaz. Scorch marks stained a wall Friday where the man was burned. The burning horrified even officers who routinely witness violent crimes, Diaz said.

Man dies after balloon crashes in flames in N.M.

BERNALILLO, N.M. (AP)—A hot air balloon crashed into power lines and burst into flames Friday during Albuquerque's annual balloon fiesta, throwing both men on board to the ground and killing one of them. Witnesses said that many of the balloons were flying low right before the Wings of Wind balloon crashed in Bernalillo, just north of Albuquerque. Stephen Lachendro of Butler, Pa., was killed and Keith Sproul of North Brunswick, N.J., was critically injured. Kathie Leyendecker, a spokeswoman for the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, said she did not know who was piloting the balloon. Lachendro was found dead at the scene on the side of a ditch; Sproul was unconscious and taken to the hospital, Rio Rancho Fire Battalion Chief Paul Bearce said.

Court makes Conn. 3rd state to allow gay marriage

AP

The audience cheers at a rally at the State Capitol in Hartford, Conn., Friday, Oct. 10, 2008 held to celebrate a ruling by the Connecticut Supreme Court to allow same-sex weddings.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A sharply divided Connecticut Supreme Court ruled Friday that gay couples have the right to get married, saying legislators did not go far enough when they approved same-sex civil unions that were identical to marriages in virtually every respect except the name.

The 4-3 ruling will make Connecticut the third state, behind Massachusetts and California, to allow same-sex marriages, decisions that in all cases were made by the highest state court. The decision marks the first time that a court rejected civil unions as an alternative to granting gay couples the right to marry.

Californians will vote next month on a ballot measure that would reinstate the gay-marriage ban, but Connecticut's governor and attorney general said there is little chance of a similar challenge to Friday's ruling.

"The Supreme Court has spoken," said Gov. M. Jodi Rell, a Republican who opposes same-sex marriage. "I do not believe their voice reflects the majority of the people of Connecticut. However, I am also firmly convinced that attempts to reverse this decision—either legislatively or by amending the state Constitution—will not meet with success."

Same-sex weddings are expected to begin in Connecticut in less than a month. Out-of-staters will be eligible, but few other states are likely to recognize the unions.

The ruling was thrilling for the plaintiffs, eight couples who sued in 2004 after they tried to get wedding licenses.

"I can't believe it. We're thrilled; we're absolutely overjoyed. We're finally going to be able, after 33 years, to get married," said plaintiff Janet Peck of Colchester.

Peck said that when the decision was announced, she and her partner, Carole Conklin, started crying and hugging while juggling excited phone calls from her brother and other relatives and friends.

"We've always dreamed of being married," she said. "Even though we were lesbians and didn't know if that would ever come true, we always dreamed of it."

A year after the suit was filed, Connecticut's General Assembly approved a civil union law that gave same-sex couples the same rights as married couples. At the time, no other state had granted so many rights to gay couples without being ordered to do so by a court, but the plaintiffs declined to drop their lawsuit and said they wanted full marriage rights.

In the majority opinion, Supreme Court Justice Richard N. Palmer wrote that denying marriage to same-sex couples would create separate standards.

Asia

N. Korea releases pictures of Kim Jong Il

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea released pictures of leader Kim Jong Il on Saturday for the first time in nearly two months, showing the reclusive ruler looking generally well despite reports he recently underwent brain surgery.

Wearing his trademark khaki jumpsuit and sunglasses, Kim was seen standing with uniformed soldiers with his arms folded or his hands behind his back. The photos were taken during a visit to a military unit, and shown on Pyongyang's Korean Central Television.

Kim appeared healthy in the images, though it was unclear when they were taken.

It was the first footage of Kim released since Aug. 14, according to South Korea's Unification Ministry, in charge of relations with North Korea.

The 66-year-old leader, believed to have diabetes and heart disease, had missed several key holidays in recent months, most notably North Korea's 60th birthday last month.

U.S. and South Korean officials have said Kim suffered a stroke and underwent brain surgery. North Korea has denied he was ill.

Earlier Saturday, the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported without images that Kim visited an all-female military unit but did not specify exactly when the inspection took place.

In the latest photos, Kim was seen viewing troops from the artillery unit, clapping and looking around barracks dotted with red-and-white slogans calling for loyalty to him.

Portraits of him, and his late father and national founder Kim Il Sung, were also seen hanging on a barracks wall.

AP

A pedestrian watches a TV program showing North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's inspection of a female military unit in North Korea at Seoul train station in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2008.

Dozens of slain anti-Taliban tribesmen mourned

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Hundreds of mourners attended funerals Saturday for more than 30 anti-Taliban tribesmen killed in a brazen suicide attack in northwestern Pakistan.

More than 100 people were also wounded Friday when a teenage militant detonated his explosive-laden vehicle near a crowd of about 500 tribesmen, gathered at Ghaljo village to discuss how to evict insurgents from the area, said government official Rehman Khan.

Officials said earlier 22 people were killed in the attack, but Khan said death toll rose Saturday after some of the wounded died in hospitals. Media reports said as many as 50 people were killed.

"According to my information, more than 30 people died in the attack and their funerals were held today," Khan said, adding residents and elders planned to meet again Saturday to discuss the situation.

Tribal elder Hazrat Noor said the fight against militants would continue. "We are sad over yesterday's attack, but God willing we will defeat these terrorists," he said.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari vowed to "wipe out the menace of terrorism and extremism from the society," according to the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan news agency.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US says 4 militants killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The U.S.-led coalition says its troops have killed four militants, including an al-Qaida commander, in central Afghanistan. The coalition says in a statement that two other militants were detained during the Friday operation in Ghazni province. The force did not identify the al-Qaida commander. It says those killed and detained were involved in attacks Afghan and foreign troops. More than 4,700 people - mostly militants - have died in insurgency-related violence so far this year, according to an Associated Press count of figures provided by Afghan and Western officials.

Dalai Lama's surgery ends successfully: aide

NEW DELHI (AP)—Surgeons successfully removed gallstones from the Dalai Lama on Friday, an operation that will not prevent the Tibetan spiritual leader from traveling again by the end of the month, a top aide said. Spokesman Chhime R. Chhoekyapa called the surgery "a simple, routine procedure." The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Buddhist elder was hospitalized in New Delhi on Thursday. He had arrived earlier in the week for a checkup, his second in as many months, and aides said afterward that the 73-year-old had been cleared for foreign travel. However, an aide said Friday that it was at that second checkup that doctors suggested the removal of gallstones, which the Dalai Lama has had for more than a decade.

India to get first female Roman Catholic saint

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is expected to get its first female Roman Catholic saint on Sunday at a time when Christians have increasingly come under attack in the predominantly Hindu country. Christian leaders hailed the move to canonize Sister Alphonsa, a nun from southern India, saying it would provide solace to Christians who have been victims of violent attacks by Hindu mobs in eastern and southern India in recent months. "We can draw certain spiritual consolation from her canonization. This means we have one more saint in heaven who is from India and whom we can approach to intercede," said Dominic Emmanuel, a spokesman for the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India.

Crane collapses on Chinese kindergarten, killing 5

BEIJING (AP)—A crane at a construction site next to a Chinese kindergarten collapsed Friday, killing five children, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The children were playing outside and were killed by falling bricks as the crane crashed onto the kindergarten in Zibo city in Shandong province and damaged its roof, Xinhua said. Two children and the crane operator were injured and taken to a hospital, it said. A preliminary police investigation attributed the accident to poor safety measures, Xinhua said. Managers of the construction company were detained, it said.

There were about 100 children in the kindergarten at the time of the accident, Xinhua said. The area has now been cordoned off, and police are still investigating, it said.

World

Ex-Finnish president wins 2008 Nobel Peace Prize

By DOUG MELLGREN and MATTI HUUHTANEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

OSLO, Norway (AP)—Finland's ex-president Martti Ahtisaari won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to build a lasting peace from Africa and Asia to Europe and the Middle East.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee said it honored Ahtisaari for important efforts over more than three decades to resolve international conflicts, a return to form for the prize which has skewed toward global warming and even economics.

"These efforts have contributed to a more peaceful world and to 'fraternity between nations' in Alfred Nobel's spirit," the committee said in announcing the prize.

By selecting Ahtisaari, 71, for the prize, the Nobel committee returned its focus to traditional peace work after tapping climate campaigner Al Gore and the U.N. panel on climate change last year.

"He is a world champion when it comes to peace and he never gives up," said Ole Danbolt Mjoes, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel awards committee.

Friday's award, however, drew some criticism for not highlighting China's crackdown in Tibet and on human rights activists.

Speculation had focused on using the prize to honor the 60th anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights by singling out dissidents in China, Russia and Vietnam.

AP

Finland's ex-president Martti Ahtisaari gestures during a press conference in U.N headquarters in Kosovo's capital Pristina in this Friday Feb. 2, 2007 file photo.

Bodies wash ashore in Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen (AP)—Dozens of bodies washed ashore Friday in Yemen after smugglers threw nearly 150 Somali migrants overboard in shark-infested waters, the latest such tragedy in one of the most lawless stretches of ocean in the world.

The Gulf of Aden between Yemen and the Horn of Africa already is notorious for Somali piracy. The hijacking of a freighter carrying a cargo of heavy weapons two weeks ago heightened concern over the chaos in a key shipping route - and prompted NATO on Thursday to send warships to help U.S. Navy vessels already patrolling the region.

The latest migrant deaths raised calls for those ships to also act against human trafficking in the same waters off Somalia, a country where there is no government control and armed groups are rampant.

"It's essentially the same problems that allow piracy and smuggling," said Roger Middleton, an expert on East Africa at the Chatham House think tank in London.

Americans released by Syria back in Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Two American journalists who went missing during a vacation in Lebanon were quoted Friday as saying they were "kidnapped" by their taxi driver and taken into Syria, where they were held in custody for a week before being released.

The two—Taylor Luck, 23, and Holli Chmela, 27—spoke to their newspaper Jordan Times upon returning to Jordan early Friday. They were released on Thursday in Damascus, where authorities said they had crossed the border illegally with the help of smugglers.

In the report, Luck said the two had hired a taxi driver to take them from Lebanon to Syria. But instead of driving to an official border crossing where they expected to get an entry visa for Syria, the driver went off the main road, then "locked the doors" and demanded their money.

Hurricane nears Mexico's Baja California

PUERTO SAN CARLOS, Mexico (AP)—Fishermen pulled in their boats and hotels warned tourists away from beaches Friday as Category 2 Hurricane Norbert bore down on Mexico's southern Baja California peninsula.

Norbert, with winds of near 105 mph, was expected to hit land early Saturday along a relatively unpopulated stretch north of the resort of Cabo San Lucas.

Paula Lucero Aviles set out with six children and four other adults in a small fishing boat Friday when they got a cell phone call warning them to return to the port of San Carlos, where the skies had already turned dark with the hurricane's approach.

"We turned back because they warned us bad weather was coming," Aviles said. "We would have been risking our lives. It is coming on strong."

A hurricane warning was issued for the west coast of Baja California from Puerto San Andresito to Agua Blanca. Forecasters said Norbert would weaken somewhat before hitting land.

Focus

THE WASHINGTON POST.

John and first wife Carol McCain and children Doug, Andy and Sidney in the mid-70s.

The separate peace of John and Carol

By PAUL FARHI
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In early 1980, John McCain was a man in transition—and in a hurry.

Nine months earlier, at a cocktail reception in Hawaii, he met a glamorous young heiress named Cindy Lou Hensley and, by all accounts, fell instantly in love. McCain spent months flying from Washington to Arizona pursuing this new relationship. Soon, the 43-year-old naval attache and his 25-year-old sweetheart were engaged.

There was only one complication: McCain was still married.

Carol Shepp McCain, then 42, had endured much in more than 14 years of marriage to John. She had raised their three young children alone while her husband languished in a North Vietnamese prison camp for 5 1/2 years. Her tribulations grew immeasurably after a near-fatal car accident that immobilized her for months and left her scarred for life. Despite their reunion and physical rehabilitation, by the late 1970s the McCains' marriage had begun to crack, as John engaged in what he later termed "dalliances" with other women.

Now it was being torn apart by his relationship with Cindy Hensley. McCain didn't hesitate in bringing his marriage to a swift end.

According to public records, he and Cindy received a marriage license in Maricopa County, Ariz., in early March 1980, four weeks before his divorce from Carol was final. A judge in Florida dissolved the McCains' marriage April 2, entering a default judgment after Carol failed to respond to three court summonses. John and Cindy were wed six weeks later, on May 17.

This rapid-fire sequence of events raises a question about John McCain's path to the White House: Would he be where he is today had he not changed his life, and his wife, when he did?

Enigmatic figure

Much has been said and written about Cindy McCain during her husband's bid for the presidency. But the first Mrs. McCain has remained an enigmatic figure. Much of this is by choice: Carol McCain—she still uses her married name—has declined countless requests for interviews throughout the campaign and in the years preceding it.

THE WASHINGTON POST

With Dad in Vietnam, first wife Carol celebrates Thanksgiving with Doug, Andy and Sidney.

In a brief conversation with The Washington Post recently, she declined to speak about herself or her relationship with her former husband. The McCain campaign did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Nevertheless, John McCain's divorce and remarriage marked a pivotal moment in his public and private life. Restless in his job as the Navy's chief liaison on Capitol Hill, McCain was by then reconsidering his life and work. His break with Carol and marriage to Cindy set him in a new direction.

Just a few months after his divorce, McCain had a new wife, a new address and a new ambition. Abandoning his dream of following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who had become admirals, he retired from the Navy a few months after remarrying and then resettled in Arizona. His father-in-law, Jim Hensley, hired McCain into his beer-distribution company in Phoenix as a public relations man. The job enabled McCain to travel the state, where he made contacts with influential Republicans. By 1981, he was poised for his first run for political office, something he had considered for several years. The next year, McCain waged a successful campaign for an open House seat in Arizona's 1st District.

Remorse

Over the years, when the subject of his divorce has come up, McCain has responded with contrition and remorse, blaming himself for the marriage's failure. During a campaign forum in August, he called the end of his first marriage "my greatest moral failure."

But McCain has also given inconsistent accounts of what happened to the relationship. In an interview with Larry King on CNN in 2002, for example, McCain spoke about his first meeting with Cindy, describing his excitement.

"Divorced already?" asked King.

"Yes," McCain replied, although he would not be divorced for another year, "and had met with her parents, and she came to a reception, and I came to that reception, and ... schmaltzy as it sounds, it was love at first sight, and so we started dating."

In his 2002 memoir "Worth the Fighting For," McCain wrote that he was separated from Carol when he met Cindy. But the McCains' divorce petition says the couple "co-habited" until Jan. 7, 1980, some nine months after he began his relationship with Cindy.

Amicable divorce

According to court records, McCain gave his wife full custody of their three children, possession of their two homes in Virginia and Florida, and agreed to pay $1,625 a month in alimony and child support. He also agreed to pay daughter Sidney's college tuition and his ex-wife's medical expenses for the rest of her life.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Fifteen years before he married his second wife, Cindy, John McCain celebrated his marriage to Carol Shepp in 1965. He longingly called Carol "Long Tall Sally" during his long days and nights as a POW in a Hanoi prison.

The terms were so generous that the lawyer who handled McCain's divorce, George "Bud" Day, attached a note in the divorce filing. It indicated that Day had told his client that the settlement would be a "far more onerous financial burden" to McCain than if he had taken his wife to court and litigated. But McCain ignored the advice of his attorney and friend, himself a former POW and Medal of Honor recipient.

"It was a pretty amicable divorce," Day recalled in a recent interview.

People who knew John and Carol around this time say they had no idea the McCains' relationship was so troubled. The couple were popular and sociable. McCain was then serving as the Navy's liaison to Congress, a job that entailed entertaining important Hill contacts. Carol and John hosted many events in their Alexandria, Va., home.

Connie Bookbinder, whose home was the setting of the McCains' wedding in 1965, says she didn't learn of discord in the marriage until Carol told her that she was getting divorced, a few weeks before the decree was final.

"There was never a sign of strain," said Bookbinder, a close friend of the woman she has called "Sheppie" since they were classmates at Centenary College in New Jersey. "She never told me, `I think John's running around.' It came as a total surprise to her. I think he just fell in love with someone else. Someone younger and bright and charming. Sheppie wasn't bitter about it. She said, `He's in love with someone else, and there's nothing we can do about it.'"

Marriage's demise

One of McCain's good friends, Peter Lakeland, recalls that Carol and John were still living together in Alexandria but that McCain mostly avoided talking about his marriage.

"My sense was, they were continuing to be married, but his heart wasn't in it," Lakeland says. "My own impression was that when he met Cindy, they were extraordinarily attracted to each other. They were both smitten." Lakeland accompanied McCain to the reception where he met Cindy; he later offered the couple his vacation home in Maryland for a weekend getaway.

Friends and family members say the marriage's demise was an outgrowth of the McCains' long separation during the Vietnam years.

"He goes off and he becomes a POW for 5 1/2 years and he lives as almost all the POWs" did, said Joe McCain, John's younger brother. "They were badly treated. They were in isolation, and they had to retreat to fantasy worlds. You know, they built houses in the air. ... And I think that during those 5 1/2 years, they both changed to a certain degree under all that stress. When he came back, they wanted the marriage to work, (but) I think they'd just gone to different places and they couldn't put it back."

Says Bookbinder: "He lost all those years. Think of all that went on in the world during that time and all that he missed. Marrying someone 17 years younger gave him those years back. That's the way Carol saw it."

But John and Carol have rejected blaming the marriage's demise on McCain's war years. In "Worth the Fighting For," McCain writes: "Sound marriages can be hard to recover after great time and distance have separated husband and wife. We are different people when we reunite. But my marriage's collapse was attributable to my own selfishness and immaturity more than it was to Vietnam, and I cannot escape blame by pointing a finger at the war. The blame was entirely mine."

He also told his biographer, Robert Timberg: "I had changed, she had changed. People who have been apart that much change."

See THE SEPARATE on next page

Life & Style

Secondhand savvy

By HOLLY E. THOMAS AND MICHELLE THOMAS
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Unless you've been buried under a mountain of summer clothes, you know that the economic forecast is not sunny these days. And no matter how you spin it, a half-off designer dress isn't really a bargain if it's not in your budget. But there's an alternative: the world of thrift shopping.

We're at opposite ends of the thrift store enthusiasm spectrum. Holly is drawn to the challenge of digging for sartorial treasure; Michelle concedes she's "too prissy" to comb through castoffs. Still, we've heard heaps of praise for secondhand shopping: You'll often find more high-quality, long-lasting items than at H&M, and it's easy on the wallet and even easier on the Earth.

"Making something new takes a lot of resources, creates a lot of waste and has serious environmental impacts," says Maria Fyodorova, who writes the blog Righteous (re)Style, which promotes eco-friendly shopping. "You will get many more style points from wearing unique, often one-of-a-kind pieces than you would get from buying everything at a mass-market chain store."

These points have not been lost on frugal fashionistas. The National Association of Resale & Thrift Shops says most of its stores have seen a boost in the number of shoppers from 2007 to 2008. Even better news: Seventy-five percent of the stores reported a jump in new consignors, sellers and donors, which means more bargains for browsers.

The authors hunted for on-trend fashion finds, useful home goodies and quirky gifts in resale stores. Nine hours and just under $100 later, their shopping bags were laden with great finds, and they had a new appreciation for the frugal types who make thrifting look easy. Two best buys: a $10 vintage gown and a boys' blazer for $7.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Could we be budget-conscious and eco-friendly AND find something fabulous? We hunted for on-trend fashion finds, useful home goodies and quirky gifts. Nine hours and just under $100 later, we were entirely exhausted. But our shopping bags were laden with great finds, and we had a new appreciation for the frugal and fashionable types who make thrifting look easy.

Tips from four blogging fashionistas

By HOLLY E. THOMAS and MICHELLE THOMAS
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We e-mailed bargain-savvy bloggers (and thrift-store aficionados) to ask them for some expert advice. Below, their tips on how to find chic choices among the castoffs.

Q. When's the best time to hit the stores?

A. Betsy Lowther, Fashion Is Spinach (www.fashionisspinach.com): "I like to go during weekdays when possible. Weekends are normally too crowded and hectic, with long lines and lots of disarray. It's like hitting a Forever 21 on a Saturday afternoon: It's just too crazy and crammed to find anything."

Maria Fyodorova, Righteous (re)Style (www.righteousrestyle.com): "Ask an employee or manager when they restock their store. Sometimes it is an ongoing effort, sometimes — especially for the donation stores — new items are brought in on specific days."

Q. What has been your most surprising find?

A. Kathryn Finney, the Budget Fashionista (www.thebudgetfashionista.com): "A Jean Paul Gaultier knit top for $3.99 with the tags from Saks Fifth Avenue still on it. Original price was $800."

Q. What have you bought that you wished you hadn't?

A. Lowther: "It's easy to get caught up in the moment and make an impulse buy, especially if it's only a few dollars. A couple of times, I've purchased items that were too small or stained/damaged, thinking I'd find a way to use it. Most of the time, they end up going back to the thrift store."

Q. OK, now give us your best advice. Please!

A. Lowther: "You might hit four thrift stores and come up with nothing, and then the fifth one will be brimming with finds. It's almost like a marathon: Dress comfortably, keep hydrated and don't bother showering beforehand. Trust me, after spending the day rooting around in other people's secondhand stuff, you'll want to hose down as soon as you get home."

Finney: "Clean the item when you get home. Donated items aren't always cleaned before they are donated. Also don't forget to do the smell test. If it smells musty, most likely it will stay that way."

THE SEPARATE

From Page 19

Casualty of war

In a 2005 study of 98 repatriated Vietnam POWs, in fact, 56 divorced their spouses within 20 years of their return. Although that rate is only somewhat higher than divorce in the general population, it's a far higher percentage than the study's control group of Vietnam War-era Navy aviators who were not imprisoned. "Marriage can be a casualty of war," concluded the researchers, "even among those who are high functioning and have many personal advantages."

In one of the few public comments she has made about the marriage, Carol McCain—now 70 and living quietly in retirement in Virginia Beach—told Timberg in 1995: "The breakup of our marriage was not caused by my accident or Vietnam or any of those things. I don't know that it might not have happened if John had never been gone. I attribute it more to John turning 40 and wanting to be 25 again than I do to anything else."

Carol has never publicly criticized McCain; she has been supportive of his political career. She has contributed money to several of his campaigns and today sports a "McCain for President" bumper sticker on her car, according to Bookbinder.

During McCain's first race, an opponent called her seeking "negative material" to use against him, she once said. She not only declined but also told her ex-husband about the call. As she later said in an interview with an Arizona newspaper: "I told (the opponent) I believe in John McCain. He's a good person. I wish him every bit of success."

On Oct. 26, 1967, McCain took off from the USS Oriskany for a bombing run over Hanoi. When a wing of his A-4E Skyhawk was sheared off by an antiaircraft missile, McCain ejected. His broken body was dragged from a lake by North Vietnamese soldiers and civilians, who bayoneted him and beat him. He was thrown into prison.

He wouldn't see his wife or children until 1973.

Accident

Carol, living in Florida at the time, endured without her husband of 28 months. Two years after McCain's capture, her life took another traumatic turn. During a visit to her parents in Philadelphia just before Christmas 1969, she braked on an icy patch of road. The car slid into a utility pole, throwing Carol from the vehicle. The car came to rest on top of her. She lay in the cold for hours before rescuers found her.

The accident left her with two broken legs, a broken pelvis, a ruptured spleen and numerous scars. The injuries were so dire that doctors considered amputating her legs to save her. Instead, they rebuilt them with rods and pins. She was confined to a hospital bed for six months, and her children were sent off to her parents and friends in Florida.

McCain never learned of his wife's accident while in prison; Carol said she didn't want word of her grievous injuries to upset him further.

After leaving the hospital weighing 80 pounds, Carol gradually regained her strength. But the combined effect of prolonged inactivity and nearly two dozen surgeries distorted what had been her model's figure. When McCain returned home, the Long Tall Sally of his imagination was four inches shorter, heavier and moved about only with the aid of a wheelchair or crutches. He, too, was on crutches from his injuries.

Both of them gradually restored some of their physical vigor through torturous physical therapy sessions. And for several years in the 1970s, the family was whole again.

Minor celebrity

McCain, who resumed his Navy career upon his return, became a minor celebrity. He spoke often to groups about his war experiences, giving speeches that were by turns poignant and hilarious. Among the people he charmed were Ronald and Nancy Reagan, who met the McCains in 1973 during Reagan's second term as California governor.

The two couples became friendly, and Carol McCain worked on Reagan's 1976 presidential campaign in Florida. In late 1979, Nancy Reagan hired her as a press assistant for the 1980 campaign, easing some of Carol's distress about her impending divorce.

Nancy Reagan later arranged for Carol and Sidney to live with the family of future attorney general Edwin Meese in Southern California at the time of the divorce, then named her to head the White House Visitors Office after Reagan was elected.

In his memoir, McCain writes of the Reagans: "My divorce from Carol, whom the Reagans loved, caused a change in our relationship. Nancy ... was particularly upset with me and treated me on the few occasions we encountered each other after I came to Congress with a cool correctness that made her displeasure clear. I had, of course, deserved the change in our relationship."

Carol remained in Washington for most of the next two decades. During her days working for the Reagans, she developed a knack for event planning at the White House. Among other things, she expanded the crowds attending the traditional White House Easter Egg Roll by adding activities. She was also involved in planning the national Christmas celebration.

After the Gulf War concluded in 1991, she was the spokeswoman for the committee that staged an elaborate victory celebration in Washington. Carol McCain later went to work in public relations for the National Soft Drink Association, retiring in 2003.

She never remarried.

"She had a lot of boyfriends," Bookbinder says. "She was going out with one fellow who was so terrific. And I said: `He's so in love with you. You'll have a terrific life together.' She said, `No, I don't think so.' She's never fallen in love with anyone else. (McCain) was a hard act to follow."

Staff writer Libby Copeland contributed to this report.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

Beer, recyclables, fashion models

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
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Dear Wise Guys: My husband and I drink only nonalcoholic beer. We were debating over a cold one whether you could get inebriated from drinking nonalcoholic beers. More to the point: How many nonalcoholic beers would it take to catch a righteous buzz?—Your abstaining but fun-loving fans

Joe: You'd drown before you got drunk.

Justin: You HAVE to be drunk to drink nonalcoholic beer.

Dan: I make sure to be drunk when I write this column.

■ ■ ■ ■

Hi, guys: I was walking to work from my house this morning, and I noticed that the city recycling crew was picking up our recycling and putting it into a truck that was remarkably similar to a trash compactor. In fact, I could hear the items being compacted. I was wondering how the city could possibly recycle the items if they are all mixed together and crushed. I thought plastic, paper, glass and metal had to be separated to be recycled.—Confused Recycler

Justin: We can't even make up an answer to this one, so I tracked down Bruce Parker, president and CEO of the National Solid Wastes Management Association. He thinks it unlikely that the recycling truck was compacting the material. "They are probably just pushing it to the back of the truck to make room for the next load," he says.

And it doesn't matter that the recyclables are mixed together, he says, because the new recycling facilities have high-tech sorters. "They have a big conveyor belt that moves the stuff along while electrical currents and convection systems elevate the material," he says. "Optical sorters use infrared light to identify types of paper and cardboard, and big magnets sort the ferrous metals. So everything that's recyclable gets put in its right place." Sounds pretty good. I could use one of those facilities to clean my garage.

Dan: I doubt the scientific veracity of Parker's claim. A government conspiracy sounds much more compelling. And it won't be long before those optical sorters start sorting humans.

Joe: Dan just shotgunned his 66th nonalcoholic beer.

Dan: Which means I'm only a quarter of the way toward drinking 264 nonalcoholic beers, which would technically equal the amount of alcohol in three bottles of Yuengling. Note that 264 bottled beers equal nearly 25 gallons of liquid, and my body is processing and expelling it too quickly for me to maintain AND build upon the scant amounts of alcohol delivered to my bloodstream via nonalcoholic beer. To answer the previous question: I'm peeing my pants, but it's not because I'm hammered.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys: Why do fashion models never smile? They walk down those runways looking grim and unhappy. Could it be hunger pains?—Jim

Joe: Anger is always in fashion. I also think that designers want the focus to be on their clothes, not the model. If the model smiles, it distracts from the clothes. I ran this theory by several fashion experts, and none of them got back to me, so I'm taking that as confirmation that I'm right.

Dan: You try smiling when you're tottering on towering heels on a slippery surface in front of hundreds of people. These models aren't grim; they are deep in concentration to avoid falling. Search "hazardous runways" on YouTube. They fall all the time!

Justin: Smiles might also be scarce because models are often forced to wear ridiculous clothing. To grin would be to acknowledge the charade for what it is. A scowl keeps everything serious and mysterious.

■ ■ ■ ■

This week's motto: It's Not What You Know (submitted by Rob McKinney, of Alexandria, Va.)

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Tim Robbins gets star of Hollywood Walk

Academy Award-winning actor Tim Robbins receives a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tim Robbins is known in Hollywood as an Academy Award-winning actor, director, activist and hockey fanatic. On Friday, he added comedian to his repertoire while getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"I used to take the bus from here to Burbank to go to work," he recalled. "When the bus was late, I would walk up and down and throw my cigarettes down. Now I have the honor of having this done to my star."

Guests at the ceremony included Robbins' longtime partner, Susan Sarandon, as well as relatively diminutive actor Jack Black, who said he has known the tall, lanky Robbins for 25 years.

"I literally looked up to him," Black joked. "I actually became his stalker because I wanted to be part of his world."

Robbins was nominated for a best-director Oscar in 1996 for "Dead Man Walking," a movie he co-wrote about the death penalty. Sarandon's role in it won the Oscar for best actress.

"I am so pleased to be a part of his life, and I want to present Tim's best production - our three kids," Sarandon said.

Born in West Covina, Calif., and raised in New York City, Robbins came from a family of entertainers. His father, Gil Robbins, played with the folk group The Highwaymen in the 1960s.

Robbins, 49, is known for his proclivity for bold roles. He has appeared in critically acclaimed films such as "Mystic River," "The Shawshank Redemption," "Jacob's Ladder" and "The Player."

In Clint Eastwood's "Mystic River," Robbins' portrayal of a man haunted by memories of childhood sexual abuse won him a best supporting actor Oscar in 2004.

Would-be King biographer caught in sibling feud

ATLANTA (AP)—An author and minister who spent hours interviewing Coretta Scott King for her biography said Friday that she may abandon the project because of the drawn-out, public legal feud among the King siblings.

In a telephone interview with The Associated Press, the Rev. Barbara Reynolds said she did not want the 30-year relationship she shared with the civil rights matriarch tarnished by the ongoing fight among the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s children.

"She was a woman of dignity, but I don't see anything dignified about all of this," Reynolds said, noting that she'd like to finish the book with the family's blessing. "I just may walk away and refuse to write anything. I'm not going to soil that relationship nor that memory."

The siblings are expected to appear Tuesday in Fulton County court to argue over who should have control of several personal papers, including intimate correspondences between their parents, that could be part of a $1.4 million publishing deal negotiated by Dexter King as head of his father's estate.

The lawsuit - one of three involving the Kings filed since July - could derail Reynolds' book deal. New York-based publisher Penguin Group is threatening to yank the contract if the papers are not turned over by Oct. 17.

Reynolds, who now lives in Maryland, said she's caught in the middle.

"I'm just a little fish out here that's in the way of this battle for control that's going on," Reynolds said. "I am sure neither Dr. King nor Mrs. King would ever want me to disturb anybody's peace like this or be a part of any public war."

Reynolds said her relationship with the Kings began in the 1970s, when Mrs. King invited her to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and she wrote a story about it while working as a reporter for the Chicago Tribune.

She frequently sought Coretta Scott King's counsel on the theory of nonviolence. Over the years, Reynolds said she stayed at the King family home in Atlanta and attended church with Coretta Scott King at Ebenezer Baptist Church—where Martin Luther King Jr. preached from 1960 until his death.

"She sent me birthday cards, Christmas cards," Reynolds said. "I was never like a pal, but she was always my mentor."

Reynolds said Mrs. King asked her to write her life story around 1996 or 1997, unsatisfied with other writers she had worked with on the project. The two visited for about a year and a half, but then the project "hit a snag," Reynolds said. King died in January 2006 before the book was finished.

Eileen Herlie of 'All My Children' dies at 90

NEW YORK (AP)—Eileen Herlie, a stage and TV actress who appeared on "All My Children" for more than three decades as the motherly Myrtle Fargate, has died at 90. Herlie died Wednesday of pneumonia, said Julie Hanan Carruthers, the ABC soap opera's executive producer.

Herlie

The actress joined the long-running show in 1976 to play Myrtle, who became the surrogate mother to many of the soap's major characters, including Erica Kane, portrayed by Susan Lucci.

"I'm sure Eileen is lighting up the sky's in heaven with her flaming red hair and lovely Scottish accent," Lucci said. "The earth's loss is heaven's gain!"

Herlie's last appearance on the program was in June.

Before joining "All My Children," Herlie was a regular on Broadway. She made her debut in Thornton Wilder's "The Matchmaker" in 1955, playing milliner Irene Molloy in the comedy, which starred Ruth Gordon as Dolly Gallagher Levi.

Musical theater buffs knew Herlie from her appearances in two shows: "Take Me Along" (1959), an adaptation of Eugene O'Neill's "Ah, Wilderness!," in which she played Jackie Gleason's love interest, and "All American" (1962), in which Herlie co-starred with Ray Bolger. In "All American," she and Bolger sang the musical's best-known song, "Once Upon a Time," a Charles Strouse-Lee Adams tune later popularized by Tony Bennett.

Herlie was nominated for a Tony for her performance in "Take Me Along."

Among Herlie's other Broadway appearances were the Richard Burton production of "Hamlet" (1964), in which she played Queen Gertrude; two plays written by Peter Ustinov, "Photo Finish" (1963) and "Halfway Up the Tree" (1967); and "Crown Matrimonial" (1973), a drama about the events leading up to the abdication of King Edward VIII, in which she played Queen Mary and George Grizzard the love-stricken monarch.

Born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, Herlie worked for several years in the Scottish National Theater and in the English theater with Tyrone Guthrie. Among the hit London plays she appeared in: Jean Cocteau's "The Eagle Has Two Heads."

Her movie credits include two filmings of "Hamlet," the Burton version and the 1948 Laurence Olivier production, in which she also played Gertrude. Her other movies include "Freud" (1962) with Montgomery Clift and Sidney Lumet's "The Sea Gull" (1968) with Simone Signoret, James Mason and Vanessa Redgrave.

Herlie is survived by a brother, nieces and nephews.

Jolie says Pitt changed her mind about pregnancy

NEW YORK (AP)—Angelina Jolie, an advocate of adoption, credits partner Brad Pitt with her decision to have biological children. In an interview with W magazine, Jolie says: "One of the life-changing things that he did, one of many, is that I was absolutely never going to get pregnant. I never felt that it was the right thing to do."

She says she changed her mind while watching Pitt bond with adopted children Maddox and Zahara.

"He stopped talking about having other kids in the other way," she says in the magazine's November issue. "So I suppose in my heart I realized he was happy with them as his children, completely. I knew he would never see them as different, and that gave me a certain peace."

After that revelation, "I suppose I just looked at him and loved him and just felt open to (getting pregnant). I suddenly wanted to. It's one of those things you can't explain," she says.

The couple welcomed daughter Shiloh in May 2006 and twins Knox Leon and Vivienne Marcheline in July.

"Now I wouldn't trade that experience for the world," Jolie says. "It taught me a lot about life, just the process of it, and now we have three other beautiful children that wouldn't otherwise be here."

The 33-year-old actress is photographed apparently breast-feeding on the cover of W. The black-and-white photo shows a smiling Jolie in a sleeveless top, which has been opened to reveal part of her left breast and a tiny hand ostensibly belonging to one of her twins.

The cover headline promises exclusive "private photos" taken of Jolie by Pitt, with whom she is also parent to 4-year-old Pax, adopted from Vietnam.

"I'm with a man who's evolved enough to look at my body and see it as more beautiful, because of the journey it has taken and what it has created. He genuinely sees it that way. So I genuinely feel even sexier," says Jolie, who stars in Clint Eastwood's upcoming missing-child drama "Changeling."

Jolie, who divorced Billy Bob Thornton and Jonny Lee Miller, calls Pitt the "right man" for her.

"I have a lot of respect for him, and he helps me to be better and fight hard for things that I love," she says.

AP

Actor Brad Pitt and actress Angelina Jolie attend a New York Film Festival screening of "Changeling" at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2008 in New York.

Donovan still a Sunshine Superman at 62

WOODSTOCK, N.Y. (AP)—Standing in the rain wasn't going to dampen Donovan's spirits.

He had come to a field in this Catskills arts colony to be photographed, looking every bit the '60s troubadour of "Mellow Yellow" fame with a calf-length, black velveteen coat and long graying curls. The flower-power effect was only heightened when a Woodstock Film Festival staffer - Donovan was here to perform and to flog a biographical DVD - handed him a bright pink umbrella.

Donovan was inspired.

"I'm singing in the rain," he started softly. Then with feeling, "Just singing in the rain!" Donovan was dancing, waving the ridiculous umbrella and, yes, laughing at the clouds - still a Sunshine Superman at age 62.

The bright psychedelic spotlight faded awhile ago, but these are busy days for Donovan. In Woodstock to promote the DVD "Sunshine Superman: The Journey of Donovan," he also talked enthusiastically about his upcoming double album "Ritual Groove" and a planned tour of North America and Europe. And while folks at the film festival seemed more interested in asking him about the '60s—mostly about his pals in the Beatles—that was OK too.

At a festival question-and-answer session, Donovan told how George Harrison suffered stiff knees while learning the sitar. He even sang an unrecorded verse of "Hurdy Gurdy Man" written by his old Beatle chum. He talked about leaving a private audience with the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi as the Grateful Dead were walking in and how he first heard the sitar music of Ravi Shankar during a wild night out.

"I got very, very involved in a paisley patterned carpet, I remember," Donovan said to laughter. "It took me a long while to come out of that carpet."

The DVD by director Hannes Rossacher covers a lot of the same ground. It tells the story of a scruffy teenager from Scotland with a guitar and a cap

AP

Donovan poses in the rain in a field in Woodstock, N.Y., Friday, Oct. 3, 2008.

who, inevitably, was compared to Bob Dylan, when he hit it big in London in 1965. The folkie gear was soon enough ditched for Carnaby Street-wear as Donovan produced a string of catchy '60s pop gems like "Mellow Yellow" and "Sunshine Superman."

The DVD also solves the minor mystery of who Saffron was and why Donovan was so mad about her. Actually, it's not strictly a who, but a what: the young artist really liked saffron bread. The film does not explicate "electrical banana."

In retrospect, Donovan seems like a Swinging London Zelig. He can be seen playing guitar in Bob Dylan's hotel room in "Don't Look Back," the documentary of Dylan's 1965 tour of Great Britain. He went with the Beatles to India to see the Maharishi. Donovan taught John Lennon a finger-picking technique used in "Dear Prudence." Some of the studio musicians on "Hurdy Gurdy Man" went on to form Led Zeppelin. While accounts vary, Donovan says Jimmy Page played guitar on the track.

Donovan says that in the London music scene of the '60s, everyone influenced everyone, and he takes credit for some of the influencing. He notes that the psychedelic stylings on the Beatles' album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" came after "Sunshine Superman." And there was at least a hint of competition along with the groovy vibes, as Donovan makes clear in talking about "Superman" during an interview.

"My producer Mickie Most said 'Don't play it to Paul McCartney,'" he said. "Of course, I did."

Donovan's star waned after the '60s, though he still recorded and performed. Notable was the late '90s album "Sutras" produced by fellow meditation enthusiast Rick Rubin, who is famous for his reclamation work on old pros like Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond.

Donovan also is one of those artists whose melodies routinely pop up in films and TV. He says he gets a call at least every three weeks from people asking permission to use one of his songs. They're typically used by filmmakers as a shorthand to evoke the 60s, but not always.

Martin Scorsese memorably used the happy sing-along "Atlantis" in "Goodfellas" as a hoodlum is kicked to death. More recently, "Hurdy Gurdy Man" heightened the creepiness of a murder in 2007's "Zodiac." And his old chestnut "Catch the Wind" was used in a recent General Electric commercial promoting wind energy.

Donovan loves having his songs matched with images.

In that same vein, Donovan hopes that young filmmakers will use songs on his new album in their own creations. Meanwhile, he lives in Ireland's County Cork and is continuing the process of "tidying up" his legacy after more than 40 years in the business. The process kicked off with an autobiography a few years ago, extends through the new DVD and includes organizing and digitizing his old song tapes, some of which were long lost.

"It's kind of retrospective time, gathering the complete works," he said, "not that I'm packing to go anywhere."

Metallica drummer to sell Basquiat painting

NEW YORK (AP)—Lars Ulrich, songwriter and drummer for the heavy-metal band Metallica, is selling a Jean-Michel Basquiat painting from his art collection that could set a new auction record for the artist, Christie's said Friday.

"Untitled (Boxer)" was painted in 1982 by Basquiat, a graffiti artist who died of a drug overdose in 1988 when he was 27. It depicts a black heavyweight fighter with his arms thrust in the air against a graffiti-filled background.

Christie's will offer the work on Nov. 12 as part of its Post War and Contemporary Art sale. Its pre-sale estimate is more than $12 million.

The current auction record for a Basquiat is $14.6 million for "Untitled," which depicts a primitive figure with large hands. It sold at Sotheby's last year.

"Untitled (Boxer)" was the highlight of a 2005 Basquiat retrospective that was shown at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

Ulrich, who collects contemporary art, 20th-century design and tribal art, has owned the painting for 10 years.

"As a collector I view myself as a caretaker of works of art, rather than simply an owner," Ulrich said in a statement issued by Christie's. "I have been fortunate enough to have shared 10 great years with this truly iconic painting by Basquiat, and it is time to put it back into circulation, and let someone else enjoy it as much as I have over the last decade."

In 2002, Ulrich sold another Basquiat work at Christie's, "Profit I," which fetched $5.5 million and was a record until "Untitled" sold in 2007.

Metallica's current album is "Death Magnetic."

Reeves

'Paparazzo' may be bad word in Reeves case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A celebrity photographer wants to make "paparazzo" a four-letter word during his upcoming civil trial against Keanu Reeves.

Attorneys for Alison Silva contend the words "paparazzo" and "paparazzi" are derogatory and would unfairly prejudice jurors against him. Silva is suing Reeves, claiming the actor caused him to fall while he was taking pictures of the "Matrix" star in his car in March 2007.

Silva's lawyers want him identified as a "photojournalist" or "reporter" when the case goes to trial later this month.

Reeves' attorneys counter in documents filed in Los Angeles on Thursday that Silva has repeatedly identified himself as a "paparazzo" in interviews and on his Web site.

A judge will consider how to label Silva during a hearing next week.

Cloris Leachman named Rose Parade grand marshal

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Cloris Leachman has been chosen as grand marshal for next year's Rose Parade.

The actress, who has an Oscar and eight Emmys, will head the 120th Tournament of Roses on Jan. 1 in Pasadena. The parade's theme is "Hats Off to Entertainment."

The 82-year-old "Dancing With the Stars" contestant said Friday she's thrilled to be grand marshal of a parade that—in her words—"is older than I am."

Leachman won an Oscar as best supporting actress for the 1971 film "The Last Picture Show"; her Emmy wins span from Mary Tyler Moore's classic sitcom in the '70s to "Malcolm in the Middle" in 2006.

AP

In this Sept. 21, 2008 file photo, actress Cloris Leachman arrives at the 60th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles.

Accused John Cusack stalker accepts plea deal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A woman accused of stalking John Cusack accepted a plea deal Friday that will allow her to avoid state prison. Emily Leatherman pleaded no contest to a felony count of stalking Cusack. A judge immediately sentenced her to five years' probation and mandatory psychiatric counseling.

Leatherman

The judge ordered Leatherman to stay away from the 42-year-old actor, his home and business for the next 10 years.

Leatherman, 33, was arrested outside Cusack's home in March.

In a rambling statement Friday morning, Leatherman claimed she was the victim of sex crimes and thought Cusack could help her.

Cusack wasn't present in court, but a prosecutor read a statement from him that stated he had never met Leatherman but hoped she received proper psychiatric help.

Cusack's screen credits include "Being John Malkovich," "High Fidelity" and "Grace Is Gone."

Meat Loaf hospitalized for 3 days in London

U.S. performer Meat Loaf arrives for the Q Awards in central London, Monday, Oct. 6 2008.

AP

LONDON (AP)—A publicist for Meat Loaf says the 57-year-old rocker was hospitalized in London for three days following an awards ceremony earlier this week.

Publicist Kirt Webster says Meat Loaf was admitted to a private hospital in central London on Monday, immediately after winning Q Magazine's "Classic Song" award for his rock epic "Bat Out of Hell."

Webster said in an e-mail Friday that Meat Loaf stayed at The London Clinic for three days for "testing and evaluation." The reason for the hospitalization wasn't disclosed. Webster says Meat Loaf has been cleared to travel back to the U.S. He's set to perform in Clearwater, Florida, on October 17 and Pompano Beach, Florida, on October 18.

Judge: Castroneves can race in Australia

MIAMI (AP)—Helio Castroneves can leave the country for an IndyCar event this month in Australia after a federal judge agreed Friday to modify bail conditions on tax charges the driver's facing.

Prosecutors argued the two-time Indianapolis 500 winner has ample reason to run and the assets in Brazil and elsewhere to facilitate such a move. But U.S. Magistrate Judge William Turnoff said he was convinced that "the dumbest thing Mr. Castroneves could do" would be to flee to his native Brazil and not show up for court, given his lucrative racing and endorsement career based in the U.S.

"You have much to lose by not complying with conditions of release," Turnoff said at a hearing to Castroneves, who nodded vigorously in agreement.

Castroneves, who also won the 2007 TV "Dancing with the Stars" competition, is charged with conspiracy and tax evasion for allegedly dodging U.S. taxes on about $5.5 million in income using offshore accounts. He has pleaded not guilty and is free on $10 million bail.

Turnoff, in a wry reference to Castroneves' dancing career, said he would have to "tango with the U.S. Marshals" if he didn't show up for court.

The judge initially prohibited Castroneves from traveling outside the continental U.S. for races or other work but agreed Friday to modify those conditions for the Oct. 26 event in Brisbane, Australia. Castroneves attorney David Garvin said there was zero chance he would flee prosecution, especially to a Brazil he left in 1996.

"Unless he's planning to go to the Amazon, there's no place to go in Brazil," Garvin said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Axelrod, however, said Castroneves has $15 million in an account in the Netherlands and access to millions more in Brazil, where he owns Burger King restaurants and a car dealership. Facing a potential prison term of up to five years, Axelrod said the 33-year-old driver had ample reason to run.

"His career's at risk either way," Axelrod said. "He has extensive ties there."

Turnoff did give prosecutors until close of business Tuesday to appeal his order to another federal judge, but the U.S. attorney's office later Friday said no appeal was planned.

Garvin also said Castroneves intends to pay the Internal Revenue Service about $5 million in taxes after his offshore "deferred royalty contract" expires on Dec. 31. That account is central to the criminal case, which alleges that Castroneves, his sister and a Michigan lawyer created fraudulently to evade taxes between 1999-2004.

All have pleaded not guilty.

Woman resists half-sister's effort to make a connection

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My father left my mother for a woman I'll call "Sheila" he met at work. I was only 7. My brother was 9 at the time; he committed suicide at the age of 20.

My father and Sheila eventually married and had four children who are now grown. Their oldest was born while my parents were still legally married.

My mother never wanted a divorce. She gave him one reluctantly when she knew all was lost, but she never got over it. Although Mom never said an unkind word about my father, she was never the same woman. Basically, she devoted her life to my brother and me, her home and her full-time job. She died last year after a brief illness, and my father didn't even attend the funeral.

Two weeks ago, I received a long letter from one of Dad and Sheila's kids. In it she told me that she had nothing to do with what happened, so couldn't we get to know one another? She extended an open invitation to lunch or dinner.

The thought of getting close to the offspring of the woman who broke up my parents' marriage and caused my mother so much pain is surreal. Abby, what do you think I should do?

DISCONCERTED IN NEW YORK

DEAR DISCONCERTED: Thank you for asking. I think you should take your half-sister up on her offer and meet her. She's right—she had nothing to do with the unhappy ending to your parents' marriage.

While I can understand your anger and bitterness, please try to keep an open mind and go with no expectations. This woman may—or may not—be the most sensitive of the bunch, and it will be interesting to find out why she reached out to you. As I see it, you have nothing to lose, and she may be able to give you a new perspective.

• • • •

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "George," and I have been living together about five years. We both have children from previous relationships. My daughter is 11; George's daughter, "Sophie," is 8. She doesn't live with us, but George has her every other weekend.

I'm sad to say that after all these years, I hardly know Sophie. Most of George's weekends with her are spent at his mother's lakefront cottage. This hurts my feelings.

I have told George numerous times that I would like to be more involved in his daughter's life. We plan on being married someday, which would make me Sophie's stepmother. George tells me that because he doesn't see Sophie that often, he would like it to be quality time. I involve him in everything in my life, and I would like him to do the same. What should I do?

UNWANTED IN GRAND RAPIDS

DEAR UNWANTED: I suspect that your gentleman friend's reluctance to involve you in his daughter's life goes beyond the idea that it might negatively affect his "quality time" with her.

After all this time, he should have begun integrating you into Sophie's life, if he planned on marrying you any time in the foreseeable future. It is possible that his reluctance may have something to do with the wishes of her mother, who may have insisted when visitation began that the child be separated from you. Not knowing George or his ex it's difficult to project what might be going on. But you should definitely find out—the sooner the better—because you deserve some straight answers.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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235- NEWS

Dice-K pitches Red Sox over Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Unhittable most of the game, Daisuke Matsuzaka and the Boston Red Sox taught Tampa Bay all about dominant postseason pitching.

Matsuzaka took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and the defending World Series champions played a little better in every way, beating the Rays 2-0 Friday night in the opener of the AL championship series.

Jed Lowrie snapped a scoreless tie in the fifth with a sacrifice fly and Kevin Youkilis drove home another run with a seventh-inning double off left fielder Carl Crawford's glove as the playoff-savvy Red Sox beat baseball's best home team on its own turf.

Jonathan Papelbon closed out Boston's team-record sixth straight postseason road win. Now the upstart Rays, who held off Boston for the AL East title, are the ones doing the chasing.

Game 2 is Saturday night at Tropicana Field, with Josh Beckett pitching for the Red Sox against All-Star Scott Kazmir.

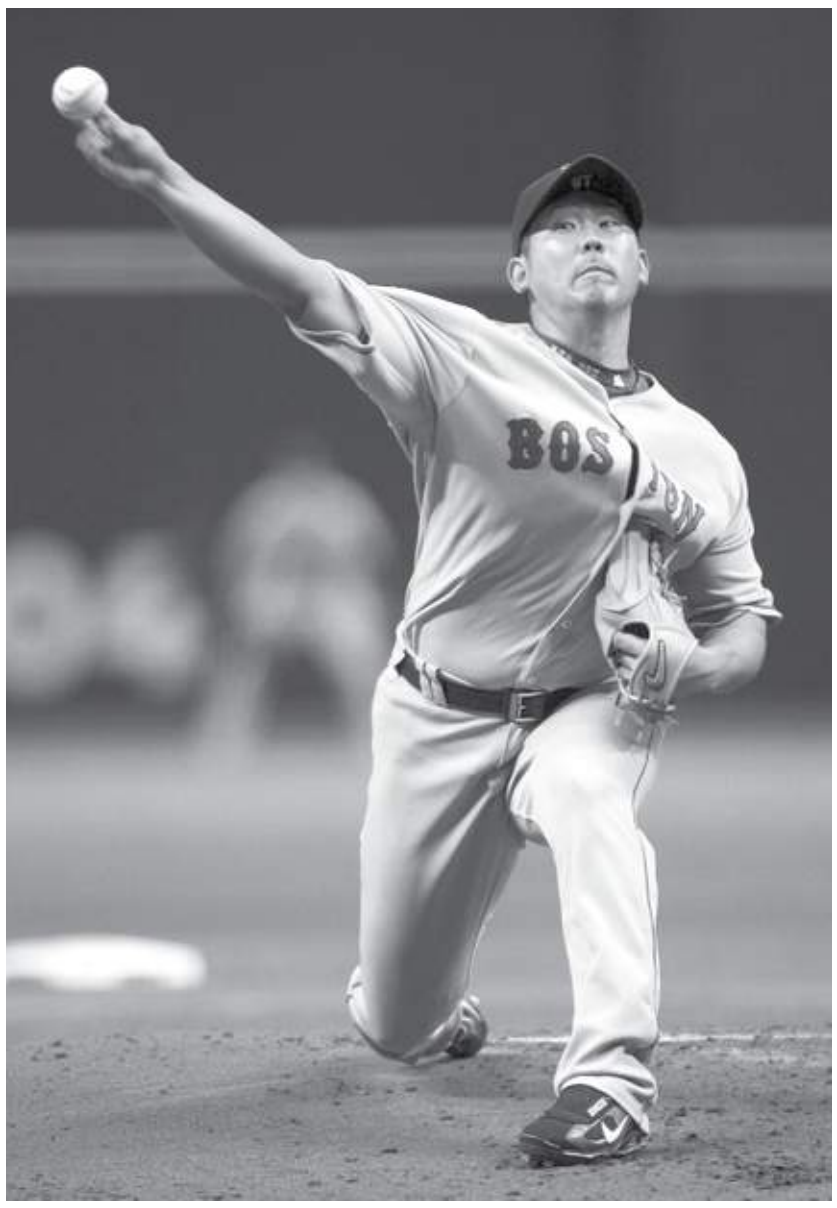
"This is probably how it's going to be," Youkilis said. "It's going to be a battle every game."

Crawford singled leading off the seventh for Tampa Bay's first hit and raced to third when Cliff Floyd followed with a single. But Dice-K, who was unbeaten on the road this season, was equal to the task.

Dioner Navarro flied to shallow left, Matsuzaka fanned Gabe Gross for the last of his nine strikeouts and Jason Bartlett grounded into a force play to end the threat.

"He's amazing," Youkilis said. "He gets out of jams better than anyone I've ever seen."

The Rays, who thrived on timely hitting in winning a franchise-record 97 games this season, missed another opportunity in the eighth after Matsuzaka gave up two more singles.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Daisuke Matsuzaka pitches during the first inning baseball action in Game 1 of the American League championship series against the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla., Friday, Oct. 10, 2008.

Hideki Okajima relieved and Carlos Pena flied out on a 3-0 pitch. Justin Masterson took over and got All-Star rookie Evan Longoria to ground into a double play.

"Listen, it happens," Rays manager Joe Maddon said. "When you're facing very good pitching at this time of the year, they can stifle you even with nobody out. We can do the same thing to them."

Papelbon pitched the ninth for Boston, extending his career postseason scoreless streak to 20 2-3 innings over 13 appearances.

The Rays finished 1-for-7 with runners in scoring position. They wasted a big chance in the first, too, after Matsuzaka walked the bases loaded.

"He doesn't give in," Boston manager Terry Francona said. "He throws all his pitches, so hitters have to respect—even in tight situations—he doesn't become a one-pitch pitcher."

Much was made before the best-of-seven series about previous scuffles between the teams, a history both sides tried to play down. But the opener did turn a bit testy in the eighth inning when Grant Balfour hit J.D. Drew in the right shoulder with a high fastball, prompting a few Red Sox to holler from the bench.

The Red Sox snapped a scoreless tie in the fifth.

Jason Bay drew a leadoff walk in the fifth and went to third when Mark Kotsay doubled down the left-field line for the third hit off James Shields, who also started Game 1 for Tampa Bay in its first-round playoff series against the Chicago White Sox.

Lowrie, who drove in the winning run with a ninth-inning single in Boston's division series-clinching victory over the Los Angeles Angels, followed with a sacrifice fly.

Shields avoided further damage when Jason Varitek grounded to second and Jacoby Ellsbury popped to shortstop Jason Bartlett, who made an over-the-head catch in shallow center field.

"I'm not discouraged in any way," Maddon said. "We played well, and we just have to hit better tomorrow, that's it."

The Rays breezed into the ALCS by beating the White Sox in their first-ever playoff series, while the Red Sox are playing for the pennant for the fourth time in six years after beating the Angels in the other ALDS.

With fans clanging cowbells and standing and cheering every strike, Shields fanned Ellsbury to start the game, then quickly slipped into a tight spot when Dustin Pedroia walked on a 3-2 pitch and Youkilis hit a drive to right that landed just inside the line and bounced over a short fence in foul territory for a ground-rule double.

Pedroia, who would have scored easily if the ball had not gone into the stands, rounded third and headed home where plate umpire Tim McClelland waited a few feet up the line. Shields escaped by striking out Drew.

Matsuzaka, 18-3 overall, also got off to a shaky start, walking leadoff man Akinori Iwamura and two of the next four batters to load the bases with two outs.

Opponents were hitless in 14 at-bats against the right-hander with the bases loaded during the regular season, and he got out of another jam by retiring Floyd.

"He just missed on a few pitches," Varitek said of the rocky first. "He did settle into his rhythm and found his arm slot more."

Tampa Bay won the season series between the AL East rivals 10-8, including eight of nine at Tropicana Field.

The Red Sox were 7-2 against the Rays at Fenway Park. Both of Tampa Bay's victories there came during a 10-day, confidence-building stretch in which the Rays took four of six from the World Series champions to hang onto first place.

Myers helps Phillies take 2-0 lead against Dodgers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Brett Myers stood on first base, shaking his head and shrugging his shoulders. He couldn't explain his hitting success, and no one ever expected it.

Myers did better at the plate than on the mound, going 3-for-3 with three RBIs, and Shane Victorino drove in four runs as the Philadelphia Phillies overcame another homer by Manny Ramirez to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-5 Friday for a 2-0 lead in the NL championship series.

"I'm not a very good hitter," said Myers, who became the first pitcher to get three hits in an NLCS game. "I just get lucky occasionally. I'm baffled by it. I would've rather pitched better."

A grieving Charlie Manuel was in the dugout with the Phillies, hours after the manager's mother died. Players and coaches from both teams offered condolences before the game. Manuel didn't speak to reporters.

"I know Charlie told me he talked to his mom on a regular basis and her only concern was for him to go out and win ballgames," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said.

The Phillies rallied around their skipper, and now they'll have to do the same for their spark-plug center fielder. Victorino was told after the game that his grandmother died Friday morning.

Victorino hopes to attend the funeral in Hawaii without missing any games. No arrangements had been made yet, but Tuesday is a scheduled off day in the series.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies' Brett Myers is congratulated by teammates Carlos Ruiz and Jayson Werth after scoring during the third inning baseball action against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 2 of the National League championship series Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, in Philadelphia.

Victorino made a clutch catch with two on to end the seventh, and Brad Lidge hung on in the ninth for his second save of the series. He walked Ramirez and James Loney, then struck out Matt Kemp and Nomar Garciaparra to end it.

"We really wanted to win today for Charlie," Lidge said.

The series shifts to Los Angeles for Game 3 on Sunday night, with 45-year-old Jamie Moyer pitching for Philadelphia against Hiroki Kuroda.

Myers wasn't sharp on the mound, allowing five runs and six hits in five innings. Good thing for the Phillies that he's suddenly become a pesky batter after hitting .069 with one RBI in the regular season.

In Game 2 against Milwaukee in the first round of the playoffs, Myers drew a two-out walk from CC Sabathia and Victorino hit a grand slam two batters later in a 5-2 win.

"He had four hits all year and three today. That's tough to count on and defend against," Torre said.

Myers was surprised, too. At one point, he stood in the dugout, covered his eyes with one hand and feigned a swing with the other, showing a teammate how he did it.

The Phillies, appearing in their first NLCS in 15 years, are two wins from the World Series. They've won just one championship (1980) in the franchise's 126 years.

"We're not comfortable until we're finished with this whole thing," Myers said. "We're going to keep fighting."

A title-starved crowd waved its "Fightin' Phils" rally towels and chanted "Beat LA!" These long-suffering fans haven't celebrated a championship since the NBA's 76ers won it all in 1983. If the Phillies keep playing like this, they just might give them that parade down Broad Street in a few weeks.

Ramirez did his best to spoil the party.

After grinning when a pitch from Myers sailed behind his back in the first inning, he lined a three-run shot into the flower bed just beyond the left-field wall to pull the Dodgers to 8-5 in the fourth.

Ramirez has hit a record 27 homers in the postseason. His 71 RBIs are second only to Bernie Williams' 80.

"I'd want to have a guy like that on my team," Ramirez said of Myers. "He's going to go out there and battle."

Myers left after tossing a scoreless fifth, and four relievers kept the Dodgers off the scoreboard the last four innings. Chad Durbin, J.C. Romero and Ryan Madson combined for nine outs.

Lidge finished for his fourth postseason save and his 45th in 45 chances this year.

Dodgers starter Chad Billingsley allowed eight runs - seven earned - and eight hits in 2 1-3 innings. The 24-year-old right-hander pitched 6 2-3 strong innings in a win over the Cubs in Game 2 of the division series.

Myers had a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in a four-run second inning, and his two-run single chased Billingsley in the third. Myers was 4-for-58 in the regular season and is a lifetime .116 hitter.

Nuggets win vs Wolves sans Anthony

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets' preseason opener was a breeze.

Next, they'll face a gust.

The Nuggets dispatched the Minnesota Timberwolves 118-95 on Friday night, as reserve J.R. Smith finished with 21 points and Chris Andersen grabbed 11 boards.

Now, they're off to Indian Wells, Calif., to play the Phoenix Suns on Saturday in the NBA's first outdoor basketball game in more than 35 years.

The forecast is calling for windy conditions—better keep those jump shots low.

"I can't wait," Smith said. "I have not played outside in a while."

The exhibition game will be played at the 16,000-seat Indian Wells Tennis Garden, a venue that will be converted into a hoops playground.

However, the outdoor court there won't resemble the type Nuggets coach George Karl played on growing up—cracked cement courts with drooping baskets. The game won't be played with a lopsided rubber ball like Karl did and will be minus the metal clank after a swish through a chain-linked net.

Still, Karl is intrigued by the idea. The contest follows in the footsteps of the NHL's successful outdoor game on New Year's Day in Buffalo, N.Y.

"It's going to be interesting," Karl said. "For me, the playground is a very integral part of American basketball—from Harlem to the streets of Pittsburgh. That was fun, going to certain courts and the wind blowing and you can't shoot jump shots, so you have to shoot off the backboard. There's all sorts of adjustments you make because of the wind."

Allen Iverson likes the concept, but won't be launching any floaters into the breeze. Iverson planned to stay behind to get treatment on his swollen left knee, an injury that flared up as he sat on the bench in the fourth quarter.

AP

Denver Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin, right, dunks over Minnesota Timberwolves rookie forward Kevin Love in the third quarter of the Nuggets' 118-95 victory in an NBA basketball game in Denver on Friday, Oct. 10, 2008

"I want to be a part of it, I want to play in it," said Iverson, who had nine assists in nearly 23 minutes Friday night. "But I can't start off the season struggling with an injury."

The last time the league staged an outdoor game was when the Suns beat the Milwaukee Bucks in a preseason contest on Sept. 24, 1972, at a baseball stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"It will be fun," Karl said.

Denver (1-0) led by as many as 25 points in the third quarter, before the Timberwolves went on a late spurt, climbing within 13 points midway through the fourth. Andersen's 3-pointer put an end to the rally, and the Timberwolves' two-game preseason winning streak.

Andersen, a fan favorite nicknamed "Birdman," was making his return to the Nuggets. He was reinstated by the NBA in early March after being kicked out on Jan. 27, 2006, for violating the league's drug policy. Andersen played five games for the New Orleans Hornets last season.

"He's been anxious, having been out of the game for two years," Karl said. "I think he wants to recreate his career. He has impressed me with not making as many mistakes as I thought he would make."

Al Jefferson grabbed 11 rebounds and scored 10 points for Minnesota (2-1), while Corey Brewer had 13 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

Brewer said he spent the majority of the summer working on getting his shooting touch back. This was a step in the right direction.

"I should get a lot of open shots this year and I have got to knock them down," he said.

Rookie Kevin Love turned in a nine-point, 11-rebound game, while reserve Blake Ahearn finished with 17 points and Randy Foye chipped in 16.

"They were a little fatigued," Timberwolves coach Randy Wittman said of his team. "We played a little bit more their style than our style. We got caught up in their game."

The Nuggets were without Carmelo Anthony, who bruised his left ring finger in practice Thursday when he had the ball slapped out of his hand. The hand was wrapped in a bandage at a shootaround Friday, but the team said X-rays were negative.

"It's getting better," Anthony said after the game.

For as much as he wants to play in the outdoor contest, he doesn't want to risk further injury.

"I'll be a part of it though. I'll be there," Anthony said.

He paused, glancing at his hand.

"But I might change my mind," Anthony said, grinning.

Stroud takes lead at Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Former Lamar University star Chris Stroud moved into position to make a big jump on the PGA Tour money list, shooting a 6-under 64 on Friday to take a two-stroke lead after the second round of the Texas Open.

The 26-year-old Stroud, 209th on the money list in an injury-plagued season, had a 10-under 130 total on the La Cantera Golf Club's Resort Course.

A two-time All-America selection and four-time Southland Conference player of the year at Lamar in Beaumont, Stroud had three birdies and a bogey on the first five holes, added a birdie on No. 9 and also birdied 11, 13 and 15.

"I feel like I am an old man with all the ice I've been using this year," Stroud said. "I've put it on my knees, my arms, my wrist, anything that hurts."

Paul Goydos (66), Tim Petrovic (65) and 1997 winner Tim Herron (67) were two strokes back, and one-time San Antonio resident Kevin Streelman (63) and Rory Sabbatini (66) topped a large group at 7 under.

"Anytime you're within two to four shots of the lead going to the weekend, you feel you're in good shape. Unless you're following Tiger," Herron said.

AP

Chris Stroud watches his drive on the 15th hole during the second round of the Texas Open golf tournament, in San Antonio, Friday, Oct. 10, 2008. Stroud is 10 strokes under par for the tournament.

Defending champion Justin Leonard, the former University of Texas star seeking a record fourth victory in the event, shot a 69 to make the cut by a stroke at 1 under.

Stroud finished the sunny day with his first solo lead in two seasons on the PGA Tour. His best career finish was a tie for fifth last year in New Orleans. He tied for 12th this year in the tour event in Riviera Maya, Mexico, but has withdrawn from three tournaments because of injuries.

He twisted his left knee at the AT&T National Pro-AM in February and has battled an assortment of injuries.

"It felt like a needle was sticking into my knee every time I tried to swing," Stroud said. "It was just getting worse and worse. I thought I might be done for the year and take a major medical exemption."

"The absolute worst was the Canadian Open this year. I had a downhill lie in deep rough. I swung at the ball and it brought tears to my eyes."

Streelman shot a 6-under 29 on the front nine en route to his 63.

"There are certain scores a golfer always wants to shoot and 29 is one of them," Streelman said.

First-round leader Nathan Green began his round with a bogey, double bogey and bogey and finished with 75—13 shots higher than his opening 62.

"I just wasn't a good day at all," the Australian said.

NFL BRIEFS

Eagles' Westbrook won't play Sunday

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—All-Pro running back Brian Westbrook will miss his second game in three weeks when the Philadelphia Eagles visit San Francisco on Sunday. Westbrook broke two ribs in the Eagles' 23-17 loss to Washington last Sunday, though he kept playing and finished the game. He sat out a 24-20 loss at Chicago on Sept. 28 because of an ankle injury. Two-time Pro Bowl guard Shawn Andrews (back) and wide receiver Reggie Brown (groin) also won't play. Wideout Kevin Curtis is expected to see his first action this season after having surgery for a sports hernia. "Brian wants to go. He's in the mind-set that he wants to play, but it's a decision that I've got to make," coach Andy Reid said Friday.

Bengals' Palmer won't start against Jets

CINCINNATI (AP)—Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis says quarterback Carson Palmer will not start Sunday's game against the New York Jets because of a sore right elbow but that he could play. Backup Ryan Fitzpatrick will get his second start of the season for the Bengals. He started against the Cleveland Browns two weeks ago, the week after Palmer injured his elbow in a loss to the New York Giants and threw three interceptions and lost a fumble while being sacked. Palmer started last week at Dallas and threw two touchdowns and one interception. He said later that the elbow felt good but that he wasn't always confident he could make the necessary throw.

Review of `Pacman' scuffle not completed

IRVING, Texas (AP)—The NFL's review of Adam "Pacman" Jones' scuffle with his bodyguard won't be completed until next week. The Dallas Cowboys had already said they won't discipline Jones, so that means the cornerback will play Sunday at Arizona. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in an e-mail Friday that the league's review won't be completed until next week. He didn't provide a specific time.

Packers' QB Rodgers ready to shoulder load again

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Despite not making a single throw in practice this week, quarterback Aaron Rodgers is prepared to start for the Green Bay Packers on Sunday at Seattle. Coach Mike McCarthy said the team made a medical decision to keep Rodgers, who has a sprained right shoulder, from throwing in practice Friday. "Dr. (Pat) McKenzie in his evaluation this morning felt it was best for Aaron not to throw today. That's why his practice reps were limited," McCarthy said. "He'll be ready to go Sunday." The Packers listed Rodgers as probable on their injury report. Rodgers made only a few throws in practice last week after suffering the injury Sept. 28 at Tampa Bay.

Browns' Winslow will remain hospitalized

BEREA, Ohio (AP)—Cleveland Browns tight end Kellen Winslow will spend a second night in the hospital with an undisclosed illness that could keep him out of Monday night's game against the New York Giants. Winslow was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic on Thursday. He practiced Monday but had been feeling ill for several days and the team sent him to the doctor for further tests and evaluation. Browns coach Romeo Crennel had expected the 25-year-old player to be discharged on Friday, but team spokesman Bill Bonsiewicz said Winslow will remain hospitalized. Citing patient privacy laws, Crennel did not provide specifics on Winslow's illness.

Jr. Nationals keep pennant bid alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Junior Nationals boosted their bid for the pennant in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after thwarting the Rollers I, 61-55, Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the Junior Nationals' sixth in as many games, moving them a win away from league-leading San Antonio Sixers (7-0). The Junior Nationals and the Sixers will duel on Wednesday to decide this seasonís pennant winner

Friday's game was the CNMI Junior Nationals' first in the 18-and-under caging since taking a weeklong break to travel to Guam and compete in the 7th FIBA Oceania Youth Tournament.

The Rufino Aguon-mentored squad had a sluggish start and trailed by nine at halftime, 22-31.

Jericho Cruz, who was the scoring champion in Guam averaging 23 points per game in the pool play, could not find his rhythm against the Rollers I in the first half and was held to a pair of free throws.

With Cruz having a tough time scoring in the first half, Marvin Rabauliman, who also showed an impressive performance in the FIBA Oceania tournament, took charge for the Junior Nationals.

Rabauliman had 14 first-half points, but these were not enough to put the Junior Nationals to the driver's seat in the first half, as he was the lone player on his team to nail more than two field goals.

Joseph White had only four points and Jose Castro added only two in the first half.

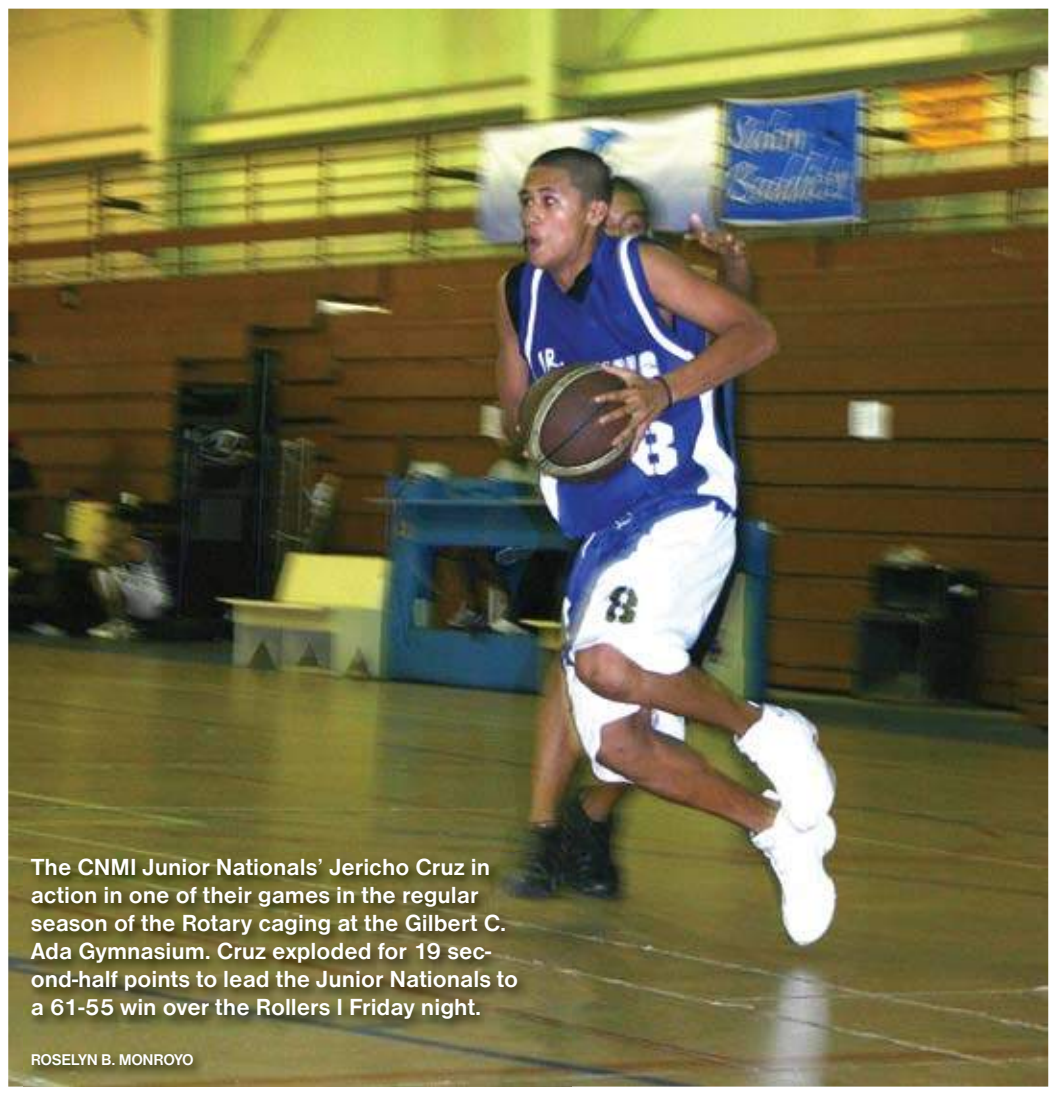
Manny Matagolai scored the Rollers I's first four points and finished with 13 in the first half. He drew support from Rainier Deleon Guerrero and Don Teregeyo to boost the Rollers I's chances for an upset against the undefeated Junior Nationals.

But the Rollers I failed to finish what it started, as Cruz began hitting his marks and Rabauliman picked up where he left of in the second half.

Cruz erupted for 19 points in the second half, while Rabauliman chipped in 12.

After a hot first half, Matagolai was almost a no-show in the second, as he was held to two points. Teregeyo was worse, as he was scoreless in the second half, while Deleon Guerrero was limited to three points.

Jomar Danas tried to keep the Rollers I's bid for an upset alive, but his eight second-half points were no match to Cruz and Rabauliman's combined outputs.



The CNMI Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz in action in one of their games in the regular season of the Rotary caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Cruz exploded for 19 second-half points to lead the Junior Nationals to a 61-55 win over the Rollers I Friday night.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Danas was the lone Rollers I player to score more than a field goal in the second half.

The loss ended the Rollers I's two-game winning streak and dropped the team to a 4-3 record. The Rollers I will play its last game in the regular season on Tuesday when it collides with the G-Stars.

After their game against the Sixers, the Junior Nationals will close out the regular season with their match against the G-Stars on Oct. 17.

The G-Stars and the Junior Nationals are playing in several makeup games after missing matches last week due to the FIBA Oceania caging.

The G-Stars could not play last week, as their coach—Jose Tumaquip—called the shots for the CNMI Women's Junior Nationals.

Junior Nationals 61—Rabauliman 26, Cruz 21, White 6, Castro 4, Villagomez 2.

Rollers I 55—Matagolai 15, Danas 8, Deleon Guerrero 8, Teregeyo 7, Ogarto 6, Concepcion 4, E. Camach 2, A. Camacho 2.

Scoring by halves: 31-22, 61-55.

SMB rebounds, beats Purefoods

MANILA, Philippines—San Miguel Beer took to heart its sorry loss to Alaska Milk Sunday, notching its first win in the KFC PBA Philippine Cup on a 111-98 walloping of Purefoods Friday night at the Astrodome.

The Beermen came out strong and sustained tremendous intensity and energy almost throughout for the big rout making up for their harrowing fold-up against the Aces.

Coach Siot Tanquingcen and his boys were all business after blowing away what had looked a won game against Alaska. The Beermen led by as many as 19 points then only to sputter at the finish and end up losers at 84-85.

The Giants, on the other hand, slumped back to earth after a 77-73 escape act versus the Red Bull Barakos Wednesday.

"We caught them a little flat. They came out sluggish after an uphill battle in their first game," said Tanquingcen.

For all intents and purposes, the game was over right at the half.

The Beermen pummeled and pounded the shell-shocked Giants in the first two quarters, erecting a 57-27 cushion at halftime.

So awful were the Giants in the first half, committing 18 turnovers from which the Beermen produced 16 points.

James Yap and Kerby Raymundo hit their strides in the third quarter but the Beermen had an answer on each of their exploits.

Olsen Racela was three-of-three from the three-point area with Dondon Hontiveros, Jay Washington and Mike Cortez combining for four treys as San Miguel even padded the lead to 85-46 towards the end of the quarter.

The Giants came a bit close as the Beermen lowered down their guards at the finish marred by a confrontation between James Yap and Jay Washington.

Disgusted, Purefoods team manager Alvin Patrimonio and governor Rene Pardo joined the picture, throwing a mouthful at Washington who started it all on a hard bump on Yap.

Washington sat down the final minute after having piled up 14 points, eight rebounds and six blocks in 35 minutes of action.

The Beermen played a well-balanced game with each one having significant contribution.

Danny Seigle had the lowest point production among the Beermen with four but he also put up three rebounds and two assists.

"We played well in the first half pero nawala ang consistency in the second half. We could have played better," said Tanquingcen.

"We have still so many things to work on. Hopefully, we build on this win. We're up against a team (Rain or Shine) playing well in our next game. I'm impressed with them," Tanquingcen added.

San Miguel 111—Hontiveros 15, Washington 14, Racela 13, Custodio 10, Tugade 10, Pena 10, Pennisi 9, Pingris 8, Gonzales 7, Villanueva 6, Cortez 5, Seigle 4.

Purefoods 98—Yap, Simon 19, Raymundo 19, Lanete 10, Bugia 7, Salvador 6, Belga 4, Alonzo 4, Aban 3, Villanueva 3, Robinson 2, Yap R. 0.

Scoring by quarters: 26-12, 57-27, 88-57, 111-98 ***(www.pba.com.ph)***

ACME

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posted contrasting wins to have identical 3-1 records.

Enyophace won all three sets of its game against MHS Serves Up!, 21-5, 21-16, 21-8, to claim the solo second place in the team standings.

Actually, besides Enyophace and the MHS Peers, two other teams hold similar 3-2 slates, but Enyonphace nailed the solo No. 2 spot with its 249 points and 10 sets won. The MHS Peers scored 223 points in four games, while Karakuchi and Thai One On tallied 236 and 231, respectively.

The MHS Peers handed Karakuchi its first loss in the tournament after winning two of their three-set match.

The MHS Peers secured the game early after sweeping the first two sets. They needed an extra point to pull off a 22-20 win in the first set, but had an easier time in the second set, cruising to a 21-11 triumph. Karakuchi foiled a MHS Peers sweep when it prevailed in the third set, 21-14.

In the last game of the night, Kimoichi recovered from an opening set loss to beat Champ-on and gain its second win in four games.

Champ-on, which is composed of Gin Gridley, Edwin Paasian, Jhie Vallo, Mika Okubo, JR Gechig, Jonas Barcinas, and Scotty Silva, won the first set, 21-18.

But Kimoichi, whose members include Jessica Uematsu, Jeff Cloud, Clark Boswell, Keoni Ichihara, Nicole French, Louise Oakley, and Kegn Hall, redeemed itself in the second set with a 21-16 victory.

Kimoichi completed a come-from-behind win with after whipping Champ-on in the third set, 21-7.

Champ-On remained winless in the league after four games, joining MHS Serves Up! and the MHS 67 Doh-Fins at the bottom of the team standings with similar 0-4 slates.

Kimoichi moved up from seventh to sixth place, ahead by 23 points against Off Twice, which also has a 2-2 record, but scored only 185 points and won four sets. Kimoichi nailed 208 points after four games, winning five sets.

Action in the annual league will continue on Tuesday with the MHS 67 Doh-Fins hoping to enter the win column as they collide with Off Twice in the first game at 5:30pm.

In the second match at 6:30pm, the MHS Peers will duel Enyophace with both teams aiming to inch closer to the league-leading Acme Roofing.

Acme Roofing will be looking to extend its winning streak to six when it faces Karakuchi in the last game of the night at 8:30pm.

In the third game at 7:30pm, Kimoichi will go for its third straight win when it squares off with Thai One On.

This year's 4-person beach volleyball league will have a round-robin regular season with the top eight teams advancing to the single-elimination playoffs.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

TEXAS OPEN SCORES

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Scores Friday from the $4.5 million PGA Tour Texas open at the par-70, 6,881-yard LaCantera Golf Club, Resort Course

SECOND ROUND

Chris Stroud	66	64	130
Paul Goydos	66	66	132
Tim Petrovic	67	65	132
Tim Herron	65	67	132
Matt Jones	69	64	133
Olin Browne	64	69	133
Kevin Streelman	70	63	133
Rory Sabbatini	67	66	133
Kevin Stadler	67	66	133
Jimmy Walker	67	66	133
Michael Thompson	68	65	133
Jeff Overton	69	64	133
Joe Ogilvie	66	67	133
Chez Reavie	67	67	134
Scott Verplank	68	66	134
David Toms	68	66	134
Mark Wilson	68	66	134
Paul Claxton	64	70	134
Craig Kanada	69	65	134
Jason Allred	68	66	134
Mark Hensby	68	66	134
Pat Perez	71	64	135
Joe Durant	68	67	135
Charles Howell III	68	67	135
Zach Johnson	69	66	135
Kyle Thompson	66	69	135
Brian Gay	68	67	135
Frank Lickliter II	69	66	135
Charlie Wi	67	68	135
Bob Estes	68	68	136
Chad Campbell	71	65	136
Tim Wilkinson	67	69	136
Jhonathan Vegas	69	67	136
Steve Allan	66	70	136
Michael Bradley	66	70	136
Tag Ridings	66	70	136
Greg Kraft	65	71	136
Dustin Johnson	67	69	136
Patrick Sheehan	65	71	136
Todd Demsey	66	70	136
Nathan Green	62	75	137
Chris DiMarco	68	69	137
Steve Marino	68	69	137
J.L. Lewis	68	69	137
Jim McGovern	67	70	137
John Riegger	68	69	137
Richard Johnson	70	67	137
Charley Hoffman	68	69	137
Nick O'Hern	65	72	137
Brad Elder	68	69	137
Harrison Frazar	69	69	138
Bo Van Pelt	68	70	138
Jeff Maggert	73	65	138
Sean O'Hair	72	66	138
Robert Gamez	70	68	138
Bob Sowards	68	70	138
Shane Bertsch	69	69	138
Steve Elkington	68	70	138
Nick Watney	67	71	138
Dean Wilson	71	67	138
J.J. Henry	70	68	138
Troy Matteson	68	70	138
Vaughn Taylor	70	68	138
Bob Tway	66	72	138
Doug LaBelle II	69	69	138
Chad Collins	65	73	138
Martin Laird	67	71	138
Carlos Franco	69	70	139
Nicholas Thompson	72	67	139
Tom Pernice Jr.	70	69	139
Justin Leonard	70	69	139
Stephen Ames	68	71	139
Jason Gore	65	74	139
Alejandro Canizares	66	73	139
Scott Sterling	69	70	139

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nuggets win vs Wolves sans Anthony

The Nuggets dispatched the Minnesota Timberwolves 118-95 on Friday night, as reserve J.R. Smith finished with 21 points.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Dice-K pitches Red Sox over Rays

Unhittable most of the game, Daisuke Matsuzaka and the Boston Red Sox taught Tampa Bay all about dominant postseason pitching.

25

Acme Roofing remains perfect, Kimoichi wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Acme Roofing remained unbeaten as it led three other teams to the winners' circle in Thursday's games in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

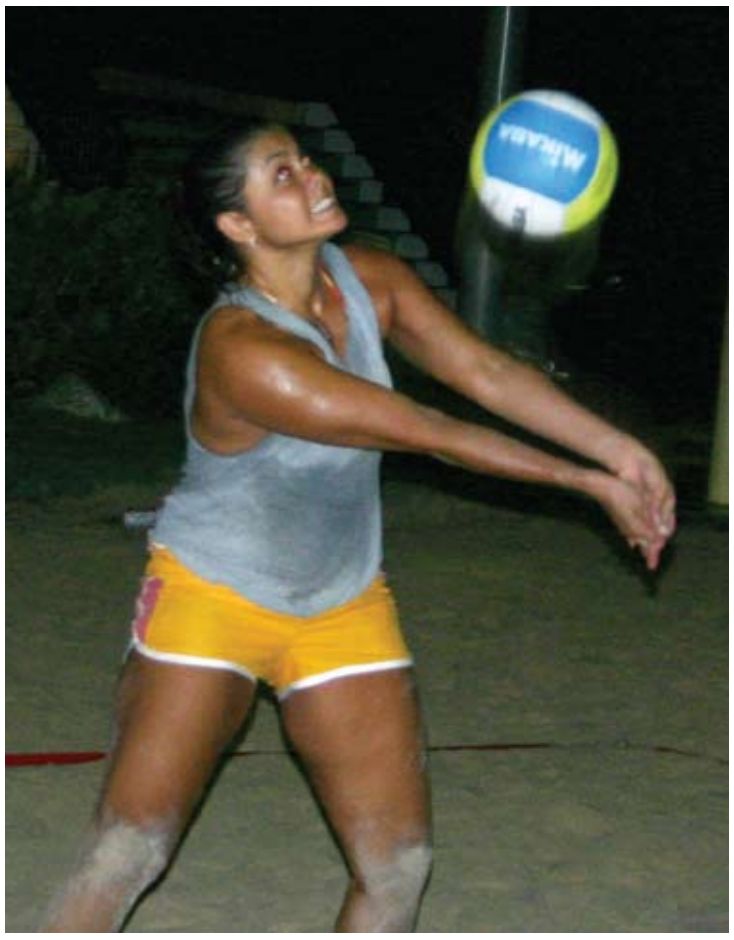
Acme Roofing swept the MHS Oakies in three sets, 21-15, 21-18, 21-16, to improve to a 5-0 record and strengthen its hold to the No. 1 spot in the 11-team league.

The Larry Sheri-led squad is the only undefeated team in the league. Other members of Acme Roofing are Jazz Roscow, Rob Jordan, Luther Taylor, JR Ngeskebei, Elizabeth Henke, Jenny Brown, and Dana McFadden.

Also winning Thursday night were the MHS Peers, Enyonphace, and Kimoichi.

Enyophace and the MHS Peers

See ACME on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Champ-on's Gin Gridley returns the ball during their game against Kimoichi in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League Thursday night at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kimoichi's Jeff Cloud serves against Champ-on during their game in the 2008 Miller Lite Four-Person Beach Volleyball League Thursday night at the Pacific Islands Club sand court.

Trench Tech releases calendar of events for 2009

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Trench Tech, Inc. has lined up six events for 2009 ensuring a busy year for CNMI mixed martial arts enthusiasts.

Trench Tech, Inc. president and promoter Cuki Alvarez said they will open 2009 with the Rites of Passage VI: "Conviction," which will take place at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

The company's initial offering will be held on Jan. 17.

On March 14, Trench Tech will host The Art of War 3: "All Island Grappling Challenge" which will also be held in San Antonio.

Trench Tech's third event will be the Rites of Passage VII: "Fist of Fury" on May 23, also at the Trench Tech Gym.

The fourth event of the year—The Trench Wars X: "Collision" will feature MMA fighters from Guam and Saipan and they will duel in the octagon at World Resort. The event is scheduled for July 18.

Trench Tech will then hold the second part of the grappling challenge with The Art of War 4: "All Island Grappling Challenge" set for Oct. 10.

Alvarez said they decided to hold two grapping challenge events due to the increasing demand from MMA fighters and supporters. The two events will have Saipan bets competing against off-island fighters.

Trench Tech will close out 2009 with the Trench Wars XI: "Fearless" on Dec 5 at the World Resort.

Dates of all fights are subject for changes.

For more information, contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA (4662), 483-4899, or at 235-3800.

MARK RABAGO
MMA fighters hold each other on the mat in one of Trench Tech, Inc. events this year.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Goat meat

For the record, my wife Martha likes to eat barbecued goat. I do not.

And just so there is no misunderstanding, as far as this column goes, majestic mountain goats are not goats.

Goats are bug-eyed ugly and stinky. I am proud to say I have never drank goat milk and I don't think I've ever eaten goat cheese except this one time there was something pretty rank and I mistakenly chomped on it and my mouth smelled like the dump, so it could have come from a goat I guess.

No one should be surprised that in sports jargon, a goat is a person who makes a booboo that costs his team the game, a bonehead, whipping boy, scapegoat, for example Steve Bartman.

Speaking of the Cubs, it is in this anti-goat spirit that I was hopin' n' wishin' that Chicago would bury the Curse of the Billy Goat once and for all. Kill it like what the Boston Red Sox did to the Curse of the Bambino in 2004, the team that I just so happened to cheer for all season for that reason—to remove the dang hex.

While acknowledging that I may have not contributed much to Boston's success on the field, I prefer to believe that I was part of an energy field that helped the team play at their pinnacle, that we were all Red Sox Nation with a spirit that carried the players to their greatest achievement. So yeah, I helped them in a cosmological way.

With the best record in all of baseball in 2008, the Cubbies sure looked good to get their first championship since 1908. Plus, I was rooting for them. And with the oh-so perfectly symmetrical 100th anniversary, it looked like Miss Providence might dance with the Cubs. But when the games started, the lucky lady danced with the Dodgers three times.

Now I realize the Curse is as real as melamine in milk products from China.

A man bought two tickets for Game 4 of the Cubs-Detroit 1945 World Series: one for himself and one for his pet goat (do not ask me the goat's name or breed). The goat was initially allowed into Wrigley Field. Eventually the two were asked to leave. The man was so upset that he placed a curse on Wrigley Field and the Cubs. Well, the Cubs lost that Series and haven't returned since.

Personally, I believe the curse was the goat's idea, knowing the kind of shifty animals they are.

Ever have a goat stare at you with his evil eye? You're lucky if that hasn't happened to you.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays got rid of their curse by simply dropping the Devil and going with Rays. The Cubs can't do that. What—called them Ubs?

Now they are stuck with this Curse of the Billy Goat. At least the Curse of the Bambino sounded cool. The Billy Goat Curse sounds, well, silly, a silly Billy to tell you the truth. I think it stinks like a goat. And it's coming back next season.

I am afraid to write, "Wait 'til next year!!!". I must resist the temptation of believing the 101st anniversary is oh-so perfectly appropriate for Uncle Luck to finally visit the Cubs dugout.

No, I am afraid there is only a goat waiting for the Cubs in 2009. Has nothing to do with Soriano, Zambrano, Soto, or Sweet Lou. It's really all about a ticket-holding goat that was insulted, and whose ghost carries a mean grudge.

To prevent that curse, the goat should have been barbecued at Wrigley Field. My wife would have eaten it. With rice, of course.